

Forty-one sculptors convey ideas of creating a harmonious relationship with the environment. **Page 11**



David Sun has landed 28 coffeehouses in the tea country. **Page 9**



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Spring PLAN

Backpacking across China's attractions and enjoying your May Day holiday. **Page 13 —16**



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By Xiao Rong

For the first time, captains of local industry have united to battle a decision from Brussels that threatens the jobs of 250,000 Chinese workers.

Wenzhou in Zhejiang Province annually produces 500 million metal cigarette lighters, 70 percent of the world market. The city's more than 20 cigarette lighter manufacturers boast exports worth more than 10 million yuan.

Three Wenzhou Smoking Sets Manufacturers Association members and four China government officials teamed up to force the Central European Normalization Organization (CEN) to back down, promising to remedy its Child Resistance (CR) Draft. The international lobbying campaign of the cigarette lighter barons has delayed the EU's final decision on the draft, previously scheduled for April 14.

Late warning

It all began with a curved piece of paper. "I really got a big surprise when I learned from the fax that the CEN was proposing the CR draft on low-cost lighters," Huang Fajing told *Beijing Today* in the acronym-laden vernacular that the Chinese businessman has picked up in six months' campaigning and lobbying against a once-obscure European Union regulation.

The October 2 fax came from Huang's overseas trading partner Klaus Tröber, president of the European Lighter Importers' Association (ELIAS). It concerned "prEN 13869," a three-year-old draft amendment proposed by the Central European Normalization Organization (CEN).

Huang read and re-read the Child Resistance (CR) draft: "Child resistance for lighters — safety requirements and test methods" imposes a child-safety requirement on low cost lighters with a customs valuation or ex-factory price of under 2 Euros."

The key detail: "under 2 Euros". To Huang, that meant China. It meant Huang's factory and his worker's jobs. Huang, as president of Rifeng Lighter Co., already knew most China-made lighters arrive in Europe at an ex-factory price lower than 2 Euros. The figure troubled him.

"It lacks any kind of scientific basis and is actually in breach of WTO norms," he said.

The introduction of "2 Euros" into a child safety regulation, Huang said, has nothing to do with protecting European consumers.

Huang's delegation colleague agrees. Lin Rong, the secretary-general of the Wenzhou Smoking Sets Manufacturers Association, said emphasizing safety and protection of consumer interests in western countries is fine in principle.

"But we should learn to fight against trade barriers that hide under the slogan of protecting consumer rights," he said.

Fight begins

At first, nobody had recognized the threat. Then Huang launched the campaign. Huang collated information about prEN 13869 and sent reports to local government. He consulted WTO experts at Tsinghua University and lawyers for suggestions.

"I focused on CR negotiation work for half a year," he said, "almost quitting daily management of my company."

His efforts paid off: the local lighter industry reached a consensus to appeal for a revision of the draft. Next came the two-week lobbying trip by a seven-person delegation to Europe.

The team contacted industrial departments, the standardization commission,



Barons of cigarette lighter industry force delay of devastating vote

Flying Bosses Face Off with EU

Produced in Wenzhou, the Colibri lighter retails for between \$26-\$30 in the USA.

Photo by Huang Xiaofeng



Low labor costs drive the competitiveness of the Wenzhou lighter industry.

manufacturers and importers in the European countries to urge their position. The European Lighter Importers' Association (ELIAS) also became an important ally promoting modifications to the draft.

Battle for survival

Huang says he had no choice. First, his own company will be threatened by the

draft as 80 percent of its business is in Europe. Second, he had just invested 15 million yuan in a new cigarette lighter manufacturing base.

Last, he serves as vice director of the Wenzhou Association. He felt it his duty to organize and inform fellow members.

Price & safety

Through their efforts, China's objection to the price-safety connection was understood and recognized by most member states of the EU, said Li Jian, director of the Wenzhou Association, also one of the three local delegation members.

"At least the EU will be more prudent in future when they make such decisions," he said.

But while the ad-hoc collection of officials and industry captains can now pat themselves on the back for taming the European regulation leviathan, Huang has moved onto other concerns.

"The lobby of our association as a non-government organization has shown a new awakening of small and medium-sized enterprises in our country," said Huang. "It's a pity, however, that we learnt of the draft too late, or we could have achieved much better results."

Huang appealed for the establishment of an early warning system whereby the Chinese government immediately forwards notices it receives from foreign trading entities to the relevant industries.

"With China's WTO entry," said Huang, "Our enterprises should be well-informed with the latest information of our trade partners, as well as of the industry trends and related law enactment. In this aspect, related government organizations should promote communication between different industries."

Lin Rong said the delegates' main goal was to voice their opinions on the regulation to the Central European Normalization Organization (CEN). As to the final outcome of the vote on the draft, that's not up to them, said Huang.

"It's not important whether we will succeed or not, as long as we have tried our best," he said.

Holiday Announcement

Next week, *Beijing Today* will publish a contracted edition of eight pages.

Test-tube Baby Pioneer Warns of Cloning Dangers

By Xiao Rong

The father of "test-tube baby" technology expressed his concern over the safe use of human clone technology on Monday.

In a lecture to city medical staff at the Tian Hong Hotel in west Beijing, Cambridge University professor Robert Edwards



has a boyfriend," said the 78-year-old professor, who kept contact with the Brown family after Louise's birth. Louise's younger sister, he said, also a test-tube baby, is now the mother of two sons.

More than 1.1 million healthy test-tube babies have been born to infertile parents worldwide through in vitro fertilization (IVF) since the birth of Louise. The number in China has reached 4,000 since the first such baby was born in Peking University Third Hospital in 1988.

When talking about the latest spin-off of test-tube baby technology, Edwards introduced the new field of human embryonic stem-cell research, which holds potential for prevention of genetic disorders such as Parkinson's disease and juvenile diabetes.

"Scientific technologies are developing at a pace 10 times faster than before, so I cannot predict where IVF technology will be even in two years," he said.

Hotline Soothes Police Wounds

By Shan Jinliang

The first call came within three hours. Dr. Yang Yunping of Anding Hospital listened to an anonymous middle-aged man describing quarrels with his colleagues.

It was the first call to the city's helpline for hardened crime police. Eight psychologists now work Monday and Tuesday shifts on the hotline at 8208-8100.

The public security bureau will also hold mental health talks, launch a mobile clinic and regular counseling checkups.

"The long-term mental pressure affects legal justice, the family relationship and their own health," said Ruan Zengyi, deputy director of the Public Security Bureau.

The slow response did not deter Dr. Yang. "It is commonplace to receive few calls as it covers a small group, around 4,000 in the city."

She said although the officers work for a special profession, they are an excellent part of society with better-than-average mental health.



"Keep safe from children" warnings appear on all exported lighters.

Xinhua Photos

WOFFEs at Forefront of Investment Trends

Foreign investors shift focus to wholly-owned companies

By Yang Xiao

Statistics released by the Beijing Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (BFTEC) this Monday show establishing wholly-owned foreign-funded enterprises (WOFFEs) has become the main mode of overseas investment in Beijing.

From January to March, 127 new wholly-owned enterprises were approved, accounting for 49% of the 259 new foreign-funded enterprises approved during the period, and the contracted value of foreign investment in wholly-funded enterprises reached \$316 million, making up 58% of all foreign investment in the city.

A couple of years ago, establishing joint ventures was the most common of foreign investment.

Li Zhao, director of BFTEC, believes the change is a sign of increasing confidence among foreign investors. He said, "foreign

investors find opening wholly-owned enterprises puts them outside of prejudicial government policies and the government gives enterprises the freedom to choose their preferred mode of investment. Some foreign investors may think wholly-owned companies are better for corporate security and internal communication."

In 2001, 1,147 new foreign-funded enterprises were approved, and the contractual value of newly-approved foreign investment hit \$3.22 billion, an increase of 10.7% from 2000. The actual amount of foreign investment utilized soared 32.2% to \$4.01 billion.

Foreign-funded enterprises have become a driving force for the development of Beijing's economy. The over-5,000 foreign-funded enterprises in operation in Beijing earned total sales revenues of 258.2 billion yuan in 2001, up 41% from 2000, and total profits of 12.9 billion yuan, a 40% rise.

HSBC Charges Puzzle Public, Break with Industry Norms

By Shan Jinliang

April 18, journalists flocked to the opening of HSBC's Beijing branch, the city's first foreign-funded bank approved to offer foreign currency accounts to Chinese customers, in COFCO Plaza on Chang'an Avenue.

The bank has drawn wide attention because it imposes a service fee of \$20 for deposits of under \$2,000 and charges a 0.25% service fee or at least \$5 for each foreign currency cash withdrawal. This policy has been a subject of public inquiry and is seen as running contrary to traditional banking practices in China.

In response to repeated questions from journalists, Liu Zhanzhi, president of the bank branch, said, "Foreign-funded banks, as commercial institutions, have to charge for deposits and withdrawals to cover the costs of their services." He added, "our different fees represent the different products and services we provide."

Liu said HSBC Beijing branch provides varied services ranging from open and fixed-time deposits to foreign currency cash accounts for US dollars, Hong Kong dollars, Japanese yen and euros and foreign currency remittance accounts in US dollars, Hong Kong dollars, Japanese yen, euros, pounds sterling, Canadian dollars, Australian dollars and Singaporean dollars.

A *Beijing Youth Daily* reporter asked, "why does HSBC charge a service fee when it only provides foreign currency deposit and withdrawal services but does not pay significant interest?" Liu answered that the fees are consistent with international standards, and that



Photo by Qu Liyan

depositors in banks in the US and Hong Kong only can enjoy transfer services and interest when their accounts reach a certain level.

Regarding lawsuits that have been filed against the Citibank Shanghai branch, Liu said, "As a legally operated foreign bank, HSBC will observe all regulations of the People's Bank of China and we will adjust our business in keeping with changes to fee collecting standards and legal requirements."

The *China Economic Times* commented on Monday that, "this foreign bank's 'love of the rich and disdain for the poor' comes as a surprise to Chinese depositors, but its arrival also brings new concepts of financing services to the market." The article stressed that banks should not be expected to act as public welfare organs.

Some depositors were calm about the bank's policies. One woman, who asked not to be named, said she is sure she will be treated well after she pays the fee. Fifteen customers opened accounts at the bank on April 18.

By Shan Jinliang

Zhongguancun Science Park founded its first international school, targeted at children of returned overseas Chinese and people from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and foreign countries working in Beijing on Monday.

The Zhongguancun International School, established with an investment of 1.2 billion yuan, is intended to encourage the development of enterprises operating in the area.

The principal of the school will be Dr. Su Hang, who holds a PhD in comparative education from the State University of New York in the US.

Foreign staff of international companies operating in Zhongguancun, including Microsoft, applied to the local government to provide education facilities for their children in late 1999. The Zhongguancun Science Park then contacted Dr. Su, who had the idea of

Zhongguancun Opens School for International Children

building an international school that combines the educational methods of China and the US.

On April 31, 2001, city vice-mayor and director of the Science Park Liu Zhihua signed a contract with Dr. Su, the chairman of the school's development company, to set up the Zhongguancun International School.

The new school is scheduled to open September 1 in a temporary site in a school in the Sun Garden Community in Haidian District. The school will later relocate to another site set to be completed before August 2003.

"The school will recruit at most 180 students, meaning there will be 10

students in each class from kindergarten to the middle school level," said Song Kui, director of the Recruitment Office of the school. "All graduates of the school will receive IBO (International Baccalaureate Organization) certificates, entitling them to apply to international universities."

The school will recruit English speaking teachers from schools in Australia, New Zealand, the US and Canada and pay them up to \$50,000 a year, according to Song. Qualified Chinese teachers will also be given posts. English teaching materials will be introduced from the US, while Chinese materials will come from the People's Education Press.

ple's Education Press.

"Since we announced we were recruiting students on April 20, we have been flooded by calls and requests for information," said Song. The school's administration estimates it received over 150 inquiries and met with around 40 interested parents by Thursday afternoon.

Li Xinyu, a recently-returned overseas Chinese and father, said the establishment of the international school should meet his requirements for his child's foreign language studies and general education.

Annual tuition at the school for the kindergarten level will be \$10,000, \$15,000 for primary levels and \$16,900 for middle school levels. "The tuition is high for some Chinese parents, but many are still attracted by the school's proposed excellent teaching standards and its experienced principal," said Song.



Chinese economist Zhang Wuchang addressing the public from Wansiang Mansion in Peking University on Wednesday afternoon

Students Find Unlikely Idol in Economist

By Yang Xiao

Zhang Wuchang, an economist from Hong Kong University and a rumored candidate for a Nobel Prize this year, emerged as an idol of students when he appeared to give a speech at Peking University on Wednesday, putting him a position normally reserved for movie stars and alternative writers.

Over 400 students showed up to get seats for Zhang's speech in the university's 200-seat auditorium. Zhang's appearance was met with thundering applause and shouts from

the young audience.

Chen Jiening, a graduate student from Taiwan in the Department of International Relations said, "I've read his books and this is a rare opportunity to meet him." The students listened devotedly throughout Zhang's talk despite the heat in the auditorium, even breaking into standing ovations.

Some economists have criticized Zhang for showing off rather than doing real research work. Xia Yeliang, a post-doctoral student at the China Center for Economic Research, said Zhang's

personal history "is too good to be true."

Xia also criticized Zhang for his penchant for going on speech tours at Chinese universities.

Qian Gang, a sophomore economics major,

said, "I like his style. Although he made a famous breakthrough with the Peasant Economics Theory in 1969, he also is good at photography and art."

Photos by Cheng Tieliang



Top Architects Get Rainy View of Olympic Green

By Shan Jinliang

Monday and Tuesday, despite the gray skies and drizzle, architects from 75 design institutions inspected the Olympic Green and the Wukesong Cultural Sports Center in preparation to compete for the contracts for the design of Beijing's Olympic venues.

Organized by the Municipal Planning Commission, the architects toured the Olympic Green in five buses for around one hour. For unknown reasons, 44 of the 119 institutions that have made bids for the contracts did not attend the activity.

The Olympic Green will contain half the facilities for the 2008 Olympics, including the 80,000-seat national stadium, the 18,000-seat national gymnasium, the 15,000-seat national swimming center and the Olympic Athletes Apartments.

Design institutions making bids for the contracts will be able to consult governmental departments about the design of the two sites until May 15, and the names of the contract winners will be announced May 21. Designs and blueprints must be sent to an appraisal commission for examination and approval before July 2.

Nobel Prize Winners Sign on for Tech Expo

By Xiao Rong

Micheal Spence and Paul Greenguard, two Nobel laureates, will be invited to participate in this year's Beijing International Science-Tech Industries Expo, according to the expo's organizing committee.

Spence, winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize for Economics, will make a speech on market information structure and its influence on information technology. Greenguard, winner of the 2000 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, will give a lecture on the impact of new biotechnology on human health.

The two Nobel prize holders and other well-known scientists and economists will appear at a forum on new bio-technologies and the impact of China's WTO entry. The forum, scheduled to be held May 27th and 28th, will be the only one to focus on science and education at the Expo.

Experimental Space Chicks Crack Way Out of Shells

By Ding Feng/Shan Jinliang

Early Tuesday morning, researchers rejoiced when three fuzzy yellow chicks with black eyes and feet and sharp beaks broke out of their shells from among nine black eggs being kept in an incubator in a poultry-breeding base at China Agricultural University.

The chicks, of a black-boned species native to China's Jiangxi, Guangdong and Fujian provinces, were hatched after 502 hours of gestation, and their birth marked the success of China's first foray into "space black-boned chicken breeding." The eggs had all spent one week aboard China's third unmanned spaceship, the "Shenzhou III".

The research project was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and involved around a dozen Chinese scientists, led by Yang Ning from China Agricultural University and Chen Wei from the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The project began in January 2000, and preparatory work and ground experiments took one month. The team began to collect black eggs one week before



Photo by Ding Feng

the launch of the "Shenzhou III" spacecraft and then sent the nine selected eggs to the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center.

The eggs took off for their seven-day space tour at 10:15 pm on March 25. The spaceship returned to

Earth in Inner Mongolia at 4:51 on April 1 and the eggs were then transported to Beijing at 11 pm.

When they removed the eggs from their protective boxes, the research team found none had broke. "The experiment put high demands on the spacecraft, and the fact they did not break proves the excellence of its temperature and vibration control systems," said Professor Yang.

The eggs were put in the incubator at 11:15 am on April 2.

"There are many risks in this kind of experiment," said Yang, "and survival rates are quite low. For example, Japanese scientists conducted a similar experiment on the US Space Shuttle Endeavor in 1992, but only one of the 10 eggs sent into space hatched."

China has conducted space-breeding experiments since 1987, covering over 50 species of plants including rice, wheat, cotton, tomatoes and plant seeds, and microorganisms and animals. Mutations have been found from these experiments, and some high-quality species have been selected and successfully bred.

French Supermarket Chain Wins Approval to Expand

By Xu Ying

Carrefour said Tuesday that it has secured approval from the Chinese government to resume its expansion program in China.

The company will open 10 new stores in 2002, the first of which will be in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu Province.

The government's decision ends a recent stalemate in discussions over the pace of the French company's growth in China.

"After discussions with the Chinese authorities in the context of the country's membership of the WTO, we've been cleared to expand from this year," Rene Billet, director of Carrefour's Asian operations, said.

Carrefour, which already operates 27 large supermarkets in China, had been involved in discussions with Chinese authorities along with Wal-Mart Stores of the United States and Germany's Metro AG.

Pharmaceutical Company Seeks to Dominate China Market

By Miao Yajie

With the official launch of Lan Mei Shu (known as Lami-sil in the west), the world's top selling fungicide cream for athlete's foot, Tianjin Smith Kline & French Laboratories (SK&F) announced a five-year strategy to dominate China's over the counter (OTC) medicine and healthcare product market last Friday.

This was the first major step taken by SK&F after its new Contac cold tablets entered the market last September. It was also the first strategic move by a leading pharmaceutical company towards the OTC market since it was established in China.

Lan Mei Shu was invented in the 1980s. Now the medicine is sold in over 90 countries around the globe, and in 2000, it appeared on China's first OTC drug list.

Athlete's foot is a common skin fungus infection. The incidence of the disease is very high in China, in some areas, as much as 60% of the population suffer or have suffered from the disease.

There are several brands of medicine available, among which Da Ke Ning from Xi'an Janssen Pharmaceutical holds 60% of the market.

Large-scale advertising for SK&F's new product started last month on CCTV and other TV channels in China, and sales over the past few weeks have surpassed expectation, according to SK&F vice president, Yang Weiqiang.

Yang says China's OTC drug market is in its beginning stages and the market potential is enormous. In the following five years, SK&F aims to focus more and more on OTC medicines.

Sales of OTC medicines have grown rapidly since the early 1990s. In 1993, the annual global sales were 32.5 billion US dollars, and the estimated annual volume could reach 71 billion by 2006.

China Pharmaceutical Gets 216m Acquisition

By Xu Ying

China Pharmaceutical Enterprise and Investment Corporation announced plans Tuesday to acquire a pharmaceutical manufacturing venture for 216 million yuan from its parent company and another partner.

China Pharmaceutical manufactures bulk pharmaceutical products including vitamins and antibiotics.

The venture will manufacture pharmaceutical preparation products in China. It is currently 97% owned by China Pharmaceutical's parent and 3% by its partner.

FINANCE

Can Accounting Merger Ensure Security for Staff and Clients?

By Zhao Hongyi

The announcement by Andersen and PriceWaterHouseCoopers last week that the two accounting firms were combining their practices in China's mainland and Hong Kong seems to have quelled staff jitters, at least for the present. But in the longer term, Anderson's 6,000 staff team in the region are still concerned about their jobs. Customers also are worrying about future uncertainties.

The announcement, made on April 17 in Hong Kong, says the two firms in China and Hong Kong will operate under the name of PriceWaterHouseCoopers, starting from July 1 this year.

The joint press release stressed that, after the combination, PriceWaterHouseCoopers will have a staff strength of close to 6,000 (3,000 each in Hong Kong and China), including 230 partners. Offices in China will include Beijing, Chongqing, Dalian, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Tianjin and Xian.

"The combined firm is committed to be the leading professional services organisation in Hong Kong and China, solving complex business problems for its clients," the release says.

Silas Yang, the new chairman and senior partner of the combined firm, said in Hong Kong that so far, the integration process is progressing as planned, and that the transition should be a smooth one.

"The combination of practice is not equal to an acquisition or merger," sources at Andersen's Beijing office told *Beijing Today*. "In our sector, we join our business under partnership, which means we have comparatively independent rights in human resources management, as long as Andersen can keep the customers."

Andersen's Beijing office has reportedly confirmed with its employees that all conditions will remain unchanged, and emphasised again that what was happening in the US has nothing to do with Andersen China.

Currently, Andersen has 2,300 staff in the region, while PriceWaterHouseCoopers has over 3,000. "This shows the senior management has no intention to cut the number of staff in the short term. But who knows what will happen in the future," said an Anderson's staff member who declined to give her name.

The two firms provide the same services: auditing, taxation and financing. "Andersen consultation is not involved in the combination this time. They split off in 1989. Globally, PriceWaterHouseCoopers has the largest accounting business scale, while Andersen has the highest operational revenues in China and Hong Kong," said the source.

Arthur Andersen's overall revenues in the region last year amounted to 1.5 billion yuan, of which over



Andersen's Managing Partner for China Albert Ng (left) and Chairman and Senior Partner of PriceWaterHouseCoopers, Silas Yang (right), shake hands at the signing ceremony last week in Hong Kong. A joint press release says Silas Yang will be appointed as chairman and senior partner of the combined firm. Albert Ng will be joint managing partner - China operations.

Photo by Ayi

600 million is from the Chinese mainland.

A staff member at Andersen's Beijing office admitted that since the Enron scandal broke last November, "a number of our Chinese customers have gone, including Huaneng Power International and Bank of China (Hong Kong). Luckily, some of them moved to the PriceWaterHouseCoopers, including the two mentioned."

While conceding that service repetition is inevitable. "This only shows an increase of our business and an enlargement of our customer pool."

Regarding worries about customer rivalry, the staff member said there are no laws or regulations preventing accounting firms from providing services to rival customers from the same industry. Secondly, "we stick closely to our business morality as usual. That is to provide 100% confidential services to any customer, no matter they are rivals or not, no matter how large or small they are."

But what will the customers conclude? "That's far beyond our expectation and management."

"You will find there will be two PriceWaterHouseCoopers offices in Beijing. One is the original one at the Kerry Center. And the other is ours at the China World Trade Center. Please keep in mind, we are all PriceWaterHouseCoopers."

The Andersen Break Up Story

By Zhao Hongyi

March 19: Andersen Worldwide SC affiliates from the Asia-Pacific region meet in Singapore and endorse a merger with KPMG

March 21: Andersen affiliates in China and Hong Kong announce they are pulling out of the merger with KPMG and joining with PriceWaterHouseCoopers

March 22: Andersen affiliates in Russia, Australia and New Zealand announce they are joining hands with Ernst & Young

March 27: Andersen's partner in Japan, Asahi & Co. announces it is pulling out of the merger and declares independence

Early April: Andersen affiliates in the Middle East announce merger with PriceWaterHouseCoopers

April 4: Arthur Andersen LLP signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Deloitte & Touche LLP for many of Andersen's U.S. tax professionals to join the latter

April 11: Andersen practices in Britain, Spain, Portugal and Latin America announce merger with Deloitte & Touche

April 17: Andersen Worldwide announces merger with Ernst & Young, after the breakup of talks with KPMG

April 17: KPMG reportedly considering a deal to acquire all or parts of Andersen's auditing practices in the US. The tentative pact involves about 150 partners and 2,000 employees in Seattle; Portland, Oregon; Salt Lake City; Boise, Idaho; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Boston; Philadelphia and Denver

AUTO INDUSTRY

Heavy Trucks Revitalize Auto Market

By Jiang Zhong

Booming Chinese heavy truck market

Futian, a local light truck manufacturer, announced the launch of a heavy truck production line recently. Its first 300 Auman heavy trucks sold out within one month.

A contract to set up a heavy truck manufacturing joint venture was signed between Dawoo Motors and Chinese partner Guilin Dawoo Bus Corporation earlier this month. According to the contract, Guilin Bus will add a heavy truck assembly line with the technical aid of Dawoo Motors. 1,000 trucks will be produced this year.

Baotou North Benz Heavy-Duty Truck Company promoted its environmental-friendly series in the capital on April 14. The new models could meet the requirements of the Euro Two standard.

Heavy trucks are in the spotlight now with the booming of the Chinese commercial vehicle market.

Ding Gurong, General Manager of Futian Auman Heavy Truck said, "Chinese heavy trucks are inferior to foreign products in terms of quality and technological innovation. However, they have advantages in terms of production costs over foreign products, thus the advantage in price. For Chinese consumers, price is still the most important factor that can influence their decisions on the purchase of expensive products. Prices of domestically made heavy trucks are generally half that of foreign products. As a result, Chinese products dominate the market at present,

contrary to the situation in the sedan market."

Jia Xinguang, a senior researcher on the Chinese auto market at the National Auto Industry Consulting Company, pointed out that the Chinese heavy truck market had seen rapid development since 1997. Annual domestic sales rose sharply from 30,000 units to 150,000. At the same time the high price of foreign products restricted foreign manufacturers' heavy truck exports to the Chinese market, leaving a vast market share for domestic manufacturers. This situation is not likely to change in the foreseeable future.

Jia's analysis can explain why the traditional Chinese heavy truck manufacturers like FAW, Dongfeng, China National Heavy Duty Truck Group and Baotou North Benz have all adjusted their strategy for enhancing their heavy truck presence, and the original light truck manufacturers like Daqing Qing Ling and Futian have added heavy trucks to their assembly line. The big market is also attracting newcomers like Chunlan Group, originally an electrical home appliance manufacturer.

"The booming of the heavy truck market has come faster than anticipated," Jia continued. "The government's go-west plan and intensive infrastructure construction plan, especially the national expressway and Beijing Olympic venues construction, have accelerated the procedure."

Who will seize the opportunity?

"The Chinese auto industry has had insufficient communica-

tion with the international auto industry, the situation is even worse for heavy truck sector," Ding said. "The Chinese auto industry has amplified the negative effects of its WTO commitment, and they have inevitably overlooked the positive effects."

He continued, "Chinese heavy truck manufacturers are offered the opportunity to optimize their resource configuration now, in other words, to utilize the resources of the world auto industry via international communication."

"Futian is now negotiating with some foreign manufacturers on importing advanced management system," Ding said. "The company has set up technology research institutes in Japan and Chinese Taipei. A new heavy truck plant with an annual output exceeding 100,000 units is in construction now, the first heavy truck produced by the new plant is expected to roll off the assembly line this August."

It seems that Futian is preparing to dominate the last profitable niche of the Chinese auto market.

Ding continued, "The newcomers can learn from the experience of firstcomers with the globalization of the international auto industry. Manufacturers with flexible management systems, such as the private enterprises, can easily seize the opportunity. While those with rigid management system, such as some state-owned enterprises, will miss the opportunity. That can explain why Geely, the Zhejiang economy car supplier, has upset the Chinese sedan manufacturers party and forced



Heavy trucks are in the spotlight now with the booming commercial vehicle market

Photo by Jiang Zhong

them to adopt a more consumer-oriented strategy. Futian will follow suit in the heavy truck market."

Can Futian save the Beijing or even the national auto industry?

Ding said, "Futian is trying to be better and better. However it is difficult for a single manufacturer to promise to save the Chinese industry. I think mergers should be the solution to the Chinese heavy truck industry."

"If giants like FAW and Dongfeng merged, the new company would be the biggest heavy truck suppliers in the world. However, the precondition is that only the quantity would be considered. Most Chinese industries face the same problem at present. The most important thing they have to do right now is to adopt more radical international cooperation strategy."

He continued, "The merger of Renault and Nissan in 1999 is a good example. In China,

Galanz and Haier in the electrical home appliance industry also offer valuable experiences. Each enterprise in the world is offered the same resources; the key is how to use them.

"Beijing's auto industry has been exerted many restrictions by local government, the main cause of its current difficult position. I think the capital should also have a prestigious economic status. Beijing had been an active part of Chinese auto industry before the 1990s, the government should not compromise its auto industry anymore."

No manufacturer will be guaranteed success in the market," concluded Ding. "Chinese heavy truck manufacturers must speed up their international cooperation now in order to avoid the dilemma the Chinese sedan industry now finds itself in. Futian hopes to see the prosperity of the whole Chinese heavy truck industry but not that of certain manufacturers."

Largest SOEs Up for Grabs

By Zhao Hongyi

After opening small and medium sized enterprises to purchase by overseas investors, particularly multinational corporations, China is preparing to make some of its 500 largest state-owned enterprises available for purchase or acquisition, according to the State Economic and Trade Commission, the most authoritative central government agency for the drafting of economic policies and regulations.

Jiang Guiqin, vice chairman of the Commission, told reporters earlier this week in Beijing that the commission has finished drafting related policies. The policies are expected to be issued soon, and

detailed regulations will come out later in the year.

Formerly, China had a policy of protecting its 500 largest state-owned enterprises as keys to the country's long-term development, and tried to improve the management of these companies by listing them on the domestic stock market and installing international management practices..

The central government, through the four state owned asset management companies, Huarong, Oriental, Great Wall and Cinda, packages the bad assets of poorly-performing small and medium-sized state owned enterprises for sale at home and

abroad. Many large SOEs have collected capital for development by listing on the domestic or overseas stock markets.

The State Economic and Trade Commission believes putting these state-owned ventures on the table will maintain the strong influx of foreign capital, encourage efficient technology transfer and introduce efficient mechanisms from international buyers. Sources say this action will also breakthrough the former restriction that foreign investors could hold only up to 49% stakes in state-owned enterprises.

Jiang said that the direct sale of large state-owned enterprises is already underway on a trial basis. Last October, the

Commission granted permission to sell bad state owned assets, including those of a number of industrial giants that were prominent in the 1960s and 1970s. The success of the sale, executed by China's asset management companies, "was a prelude to fully opening up large state-owned ventures for purchase," said Jiang.

Analysts say China is already quite sophisticated in introducing foreign investors to set up new independent ventures and joint ventures and purchase assets from domestic enterprises, but still lacks experience in guiding and monitoring direct purchases and acquisitions of large state-owned ventures.

Mainland Enterprises Plan Second HK Recruitment Fair

By Zhao Hongyi

Large enterprises from the Chinese mainland are planning to hold their second recruitment fair for management professionals in Hong Kong June 29-30, inspired by the success of the first fair held January 26-27.

Guangzhou-based www.job168.com, a headhunter and human resources consulting company, and MRC Jinxing Human Resources Co. Ltd, were the joint organizers of the first recruiting fair, which attracted 12,000 management professionals from Hong Kong and Taiwan. More than 760 positions in the Chinese mainland were offered in industries including securities, science and telecommunications, machinery production, insurance and property development.

Around 100 professionals recruited at the fair have assumed positions in senior management teams in mainland enterprises.

The two organizers expect more recruiters from the mainland to take part in the second fair. They will open on-line pre-registration for interviews and offer on-site recruitment.

Nasdaq President Backs Possible Branch in China

By Zhao Hongyi

John Wall, President and COO of Nasdaq International, said Nasdaq is considering the possibility of setting up a branch in China as long as the country's market economy system continues to develop.

Mr. Wall made the statement in a lecture he delivered at the Zhongguancun Science Park last week.

Six Chinese ventures, including three operating in the Zhongguancun Science Park, have been listed on Nasdaq.

Regarding the serious problems faced by some listed Chinese companies, Mr. Wall said their very low prices do not indicate a lack of investor interest, but instead, "are the result of a global economic downturn."

"Some Chinese Internet companies have performed better than their American counterparts."

Mr. Wall explained his company's strategy in China: first to recommend qualified Chinese companies for public listing in the US; second, to introduce qualified smaller US companies and start ups to Chinese investors; and third, to fully integrate Nasdaq's operations with the China market.

Qingdao Puts Land up for Auction in Beijing

By Zhao Hongyi

April 20, over 50 real estate developers, both domestic and overseas, attended a meeting in Beijing hosted by the municipal government of Qingdao, Shandong province, to introduce six pieces of land with a total area of 500 *mu* (approximately 33.4 hectares) that will be sold by auction on May 11 in Qingdao.

"This is the largest land auction project we have ever handled," said Yang Jun, vice mayor of Qingdao, at the introductory meeting. "As one of Beijing's partners in hosting the 2008 Olympics, Qingdao is very interested in building its connections with the capital," he added.

The Qingdao government hopes the auction will help it solidify ties with Beijing and introduce domestic and foreign investment in its real estate sector. Qingdao has been approved by the International Olympic Committee to hold some of the events of the 2008 Olympics, including water skiing and sailing.



US Secretary of Commerce Don Evans (L) examines the "Phoenix" FCHV (Fuel Cell Hybrid Vehicle) developed through Sino-US cooperation, in Beijing on Earth Day, April 22. The vehicle, manufactured by Pan Asia Technical Automotive Center, a joint venture between General Motors and Shanghai Automotive Co. Ltd., emits only steam when running. Donald Evans attended the 14th conference of the China-US Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) held Tuesday in Beijing. (Xinhua Photo)

British, Australian Education Fairs Peak Interest of Students, Parents

By Zhao Hongyi

Tens of thousands of Chinese students lined up in mid-April at the entrances of the China World Trade Center and the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel in Beijing, pressing to get in the doors to the British and Australian sides of the British Australian Education Fair 2002.

At the British fair in the World Trade Center, over 30 British universities, colleges and vocational training schools offered massive amounts of materials to introduce their

programs and campuses, and answered questions and receive applications from Chinese students.

"We know China has a huge population and expected this kind of huge queue. Everything was ready," said Lara Kelley, head of the international office of the South Bank University of London. She added, "We currently have over 300 Chinese students studying in our university."

Zhang Qing, a young girl from Tianjin who came up for the fair

with her mother, said Britain is an ideal place to receive higher education.

"Britain offers the best English, high academic standards and internationally recognized diplomas and certificates. Tuition fees and living costs in Britain are higher than in many other countries, but it is worth it."

"Chinese students used to apply for scholarships to study abroad, but that has become less critical," said Zhang's mother, who seemed even more anxious and excited than her daughter. "We'll do anything we can to support our daughter's future."

Yan Lihua, a Beijing girl in her second year at a secretary training school, said, "I have lost my chance to go to a top university in China, so I don't want to pass up on any second chances. Studying in Britain can improve the weakness in my educational record."

Asked whether she preferred to study in Britain or Australia in terms of costs and quality of education, Yan said, "To me, it makes no difference. My goal is to receive higher education in

the West. I am not interested in spending a lot of money and time to receive a joint diploma at home." She was referring to the growing number of China-foreign joint educational programs offered domestically.

According to the British Council Beijing Office, which acts as the cultural section of the British Embassy and is one of the four IELTS (International English Language Testing System) coordinating centers in China, over 17,000 student visas were issued last year to Chinese students to study in Britain. "The number will climb to 20,000 this year," said Andrew Disbury, first secretary for education of the office, "and over 20,000 students from the Chinese mainland are currently studying in courses longer than 6 months in Britain."

Australia issued 11,500 student visas last year in China, and that number may reach as high as 15,000 this year, according to officials from the Australian Embassy to China. Over 25,000 Chinese are currently studying in the country.



Zhang Qing, a young girl from Tianjin who came up for the education fair with her mother, eagerly awaits an interview with reps from Britain's University of Portsmouth. Photo by Ayi

By Wang Dandan

The freight distribution industry is drawing increasing attention from the Chinese government, and development of the industry was the subject of a global sourcing forum held in Nanjing this week. In Beijing, the Wumei and Jian supermarket chains have already started cooperating with foreign freight delivery companies.

Xie Xuren, vice-minister of the State Economic and Trade

Commission (SETC), said at the forum that opening the commercial sector over the next two to five years will be a major component of China's overall opening-up policy.

Earlier this month, Jian Hypermarket signed an agreement with Tibbett & Britten, one of the world's 10 largest freight distribution companies. According to the agreement, Tibbett & Britten will distribute goods from suppliers to Jian

outlets once or twice daily.

Founded in 1997, Jian Hypermarket operates 16 chain stores in China.

Tibbett & Britten has a worldwide business network and its clients include Wal-Mart, Carrefour and ASDA. Since entering China's market in 1997, Tibbett & Britten has cooperated with two chain store companies, ParknShop's outlets in Shenzhen and Wumei Supermarket in Beijing.

"Domestic supermarkets have to deal with many suppliers, depending on the size of their sales areas," said Wei Jie, spokesperson for Jian Hypermarket.

"By signing with a distribution company, we can effectively deal with one supplier when it comes to purchasing and delivery," he added.

With the help of this distribution company, Jian will have more choices in selecting loca-

MNCs Pursue R&D in Tsinghua SciPark

By Shan Jinliang

Sun Microsystems, M.I.S. Technology and IT Frontier announced they will establish research and development (R&D) facilities in the Innovation Center of the Tsinghua University Science Park on Monday. The same day, Schlumberger also announced its move into the Park.

Sun has rented 6,000 square meters of floor space for its R&D center, called the Sun China Engineering Academy. Due to its need to expand, Schlumberger plans to transfer its R&D facilities from a 1,000 square-meter office in Xueyan Mansion to a 3,000 square meters office in the park's Innovation Center.

The Tsinghua Science Park, already home to a R&D center under P&G, has become a focus of multinational corporations (MNCs) in the Zhongguancun Science Park.

Gong Li, President of the Sun China Engineering Academy, said, "Sun will shift 10% of its R&D work to China. We are pleased with the park's excellent legal and social environments and huge development space. Also, Zhongguancun is Beijing's technological innovation center and can provide us with access to skilled staff from universities in the area."

The Tsinghua University Science Park, one of 22 university science parks nationwide, is aimed at becoming a hi-tech industry hub, said Mei Meng, vice chairman of the Tsinghua Science Park Development Corporation. He added, "We hope to create an atmosphere of interaction between different kinds of companies for the gain of all."

PUSP Allies with Korean Investor

By Shan Jinliang

Peking University Science Park (PUSP) General Manager Ye Lining and Sung-Moon Kwon, president of KTB, South Korea's largest venture capital company, signed a memo of intent to cooperate on April 19.

The memo stipulates Peking University Science Park will provide market information and consultation services to hi-tech companies invested in by KTB that are preparing to enter China's market. These companies will be able to sign contracts with PUSP to establish presences in the park and KTB will provide the companies with venture capital and management services.

Ye said the two sides will hold annual "Sino-South-Korea Hi-tech Enterprise Forum" beginning next year.

Over more than 20 years, KTB has invested in over 400 startups and small or medium-sized companies, 14 of which have been listed on Nasdaq and a quarter of which have been listed on KOSDAQ, the main index in the South Korean market.

The Peking University Science Park, established in 1992, has also established cooperative relations with Toshiba, Hitachi and ITOCHU of Japan and Germany's BMW.

Beijing Supermarket Chain Teams Up with British Distributor

By Wang Dandan

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"By signing with a distribution company, we can effectively deal with one supplier when it comes to purchasing and delivery," he added.

With the help of this distribution company, Jian will have more choices in selecting loca-

tions for the establishment of new stores.

"Suppliers set their prices by whether they have to deliver or not," said Wei. "When a distribution company takes over the delivery of all goods, supermarkets can receive bargains from suppliers, leading to lower sale prices of goods," he continued.

"Our ultimate goal is to better serve our customers by offering lower prices," said Wei.

Doctor Tiptoes to Tend to Uptight Tightrope Walker



Photo by Alim Halidin

By Sun Ming

A tightrope walker with blisters on his feet received a doctor's visit on the high wire last Sunday.

"It was a nervous diagnosis," said Dr. Tong. "He answered my questions while he was standing or walking on the wire cable all alone."

With no safety harness, the Xinjiang acrobat is challenging for the Guinness World Record by sitting on an overhead wire cable above Jinhai Lake in Pinggu County until May 7. He plans to stay there 22 days.

Aidl Hoxur shelters alone in a 4-square-meter hut built at one end of a 450-meter long wire cable, as first reported in *Beijing Today* two weeks ago.

"His illness is not serious. According to his complexion, he is quite healthy," the doctor said.

Hoxur on April 20 had called his wife Ibagul Abdurazak and mentioned he had water blisters on the face and feet. He then telephoned to request a doctor.

Dr. Tong Changshun, a dermatologist of Pinggu Hospital, discussed the blisters with Hoxur via the Internet. But Dr. Tong said he would really rather see Hoxur face to face.

"I am responsible for diagnosing him," Dr. Tong told *Beijing Today*. "Then Hoxur suggested I climb to the top of the hill opposite his hut."

"He told me when he walked to the other

end of the cable, the distance between us would be only two meters."

Dr. Tong inspected Hoxur and concluded he was suffering a mild dropsy. Hoxur has had blisters since the second day of his record bid.

The poor weather, long periods of mental stress and physical strength needed for the activity caused the problems, Dr. Tong says.

Hoxur was told to eat more fruit and to take more Yunnan white drug-powder, a kind of Chinese medicine to diminish inflammation and relieve pain.

Hoxur admitted he also has a minor ache in his right arm. The arm was broken two years ago when he fell 17 meters from a cable in Shanghai.

Foreign Affairs

Foreign Doctor, Robot Repair Kids' Hearts

By Ivy Zhang

A revolutionary new form of heart surgery has been performed successfully for the first time in city history by a foreign surgeon.

Dr. Michael Black, of the Stanford University Medicine School Falk Cardiovascular Research Center, performed the micro-invasive robot-assisted surgery on Jia Chen, 6, at China Marine General Hospital in the North West of Beijing last Saturday.

A total of six mini-invasive heart operations have been performed in China, but this was the first deployed for a congenital heart problem, according to an unofficial source.

The boy can be released today, said Zhang Zaigao, director of the hospital cardiac surgery department.

"In the past, if this kind of operation was performed on children, it needed a 15 centimeter wide cut and sometimes a rib needed to be removed because of the ambiguous view," a Jinan doctor told *Beijing Star* on April 22. He was one of a group of Chinese doctors to come to Beijing to watch the groundbreaking operation.

If the rib was removed, the child would grow up with a permanent shoulder tilt. Dr. Black made a 4-centimeter cut to the boy's chest. The smaller cut, which means less bleeding, allows the surgeon to introduce robotic tools, controlled by something like a joystick.

Attached to a special blood circulation machine, Chen's heart was stopped for 29 minutes during Dr. Black's computerized surgery.

Dr. Black also later performed a second successful operation on 13-year-old Duan Meirong. She and Chen are recovering fast and their stitches will be removed next week.

Wife Accidentally Hands Herself in at Court

By Sun Ming

A woman wanted by police for fraud was arrested in court when she came to watch the trial of her alleged accomplices.

Xia Lan, 36, had been sought for questioning by police for six months when she coolly walked into a Fengtai courtroom on Tuesday last week.

"Perhaps she was careless or she didn't know why people should show their identities in advance if they want to hear a trial," Chief Justice Hu Chunsheng told *Beijing Today*.

Xia was then arrested for her involvement in the very same case about to go to trial. Husband Lu Yongzhu and defendants Lu Yongqiang, Xu Rongwei and Xiong Shaojun stood accused of selling fake coins in Caoqiao Village of Fengtai District on September 12 last year.

"According to materials on the claim provided by Fengtai Procuratorate, Lu's wife Xia Lan was also suspected of complicity in the case, but she had evaded police. Her husband's confession had even named Xia Lan as an accomplice."

"Many relatives of the defendants wanted to hear the trial, but only two or three people could be admitted at most. So we had to limit their number," said Judge Hu.

"I asked my colleagues to tell me which relatives had come. When the wife of Lu Yongzhu was mentioned, I was very much surprised."

Hu called police and postponed the 9 am court session by one hour.

"To avoid beating the grass and frightening away the snake, I asked Xia to wait in the aisle and talked over some petty things with her," said Hu.

"For example, I told her that perhaps her husband would be fined and asked her not to cry at trial."

Meanwhile, bailiff Zhao Zhongwei spied on them nearby. Then at 10 am, Beijing Police came to the court and carted Xia away.

"She was stunned when policemen appeared before her," said Hu. "But perhaps she realized the reason. She said nothing."

Ministry Warns World Cup Fans to be Careful

By Feng Yihua

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published list of a don'ts for Chinese football fans attending the World Cup in South Korea.

On top of a ban on explosives, guns, poisons and knives, the authorities insist laser pens, whistles, and banners are also forbidden to be brought into stadiums.

Laser pens and whistles interfere with normal play. Banners disseminate politics and religion. Glass, plastic bottles, canned food and drink are also banned.

To save time on the security check, spectators are not encouraged to bring backpacks.



Photo by Su Guanming

Wild Battle at Wall

By Sun Ming

A Ming Dynasty soldier takes a breather from the battle at the recently reopened Shixiaguan section of the Great Wall.

Peasant leader Li Zicheng's March 13,

1644 battle was re-enacted at the wall, five kilometers from Badaling and untouched since the Ming Dynasty.

"We just added some maintenance precautions," said Du Zhigang, director of the Administration Office of Badaling

Great Wall.

"Few tourists have been to Shixiaguan Great Wall because of its obscurity, and so we dubbed it the 'wild Great Wall.'"

"But more and more people want to visit such original Great Wall."

By Chen Huiying

An American was arrested for assaulting and insulting a bus driver, conductors and passengers on a city bus last Saturday.

Beijing police refused to name or give any information about the man, saying they had not yet figured out the wording for a press release. But from observing the man's passport held by a police on the spot, Lan He, a reporter with *Beijing Times*, wrote he had recognized it as American.

If the foreigner is not a diplomat and has no diplomatic immunity, the case will be dealt with according to Chinese laws and regulations, a police spokesman said.

Punishment depends on the victims' injuries. If not too serious, the case will be solved by the police. Otherwise, a legal medical expert report is needed to decide the punishment.

According to *Beijing Times*, the man apologized to the driver and passengers, and offered medical compensation.

"When driving the bus towards Dong-

Foreign Passenger Runs Berserk on City Bus



Photo by Lan He

zhimen," said 359 driver Meng Qiusheng, "Through my wing mirror I saw a foreigner, about 1.8 meters tall, stamping on the engine cover."

Meng says she told the man twice not to step on the cover and gestured at him to cease his behavior. Meng says the man then

jumped onto the cover and punched her in the face. Bleeding and dizzy, Meng stopped the Dongzhimen-Capital Airport bus near the Lufthansa Center.

The man allegedly then turned on a young Chinese man who had tried to intervene when the American was beating the driver. The man also allegedly insulted the conductor. A woman in her 20s told *Beijing Times* that she told the man in English he should apologize, but the man allegedly responded with an insult.

Seeing all the passengers had stood up, the man next allegedly sought to escape through the front window, but failed. A passenger quickly got off the bus and tackled him by his legs, pushed him back on the bus where others held him, according to the *Times* report.

Ten minutes later, two police wagons came and at 2 pm, police took the man away.

The next day, the story appeared in other Chinese newspapers and on networks, evoking fury. The case is under investigation.

Student Makes New Friends

By Feng Yihua

A student of China Agricultural University in Haidian District found three cockroaches in his ear on Sunday.

A roommate of the student told the story to *Beijing Youth Daily* via a newspaper hotline the next day.

"He felt something creeping in his left ear yesterday and went to see

the doctor of our university," he said. "After drinking some medicine, he still felt uncomfortable."

The student went to the Third Hospital of Beijing Medical University for emergency treatment. The doctor lit his middle ear with a lamp, and used tweezers and a clamp to pull three cockroaches and a cockroach egg out

of his ear."

The largest cockroach was still alive. The others were dead.

"He rapidly recovered after the roaches had been taken out," said his friend, who declined to give any names.

The roommate said the event perplexed him.

"We often clean our room and the university scatters roach kill every semester."

Zeng Xiaopeng, an expert of the



Photo by Wang Zhenlong

Beijing Hygiene Committee, told *Beijing Youth Daily* the insects like a warm and wet environment.

"The harm becomes more serious along with the development of the economy and the increase of urbanization," said Deng.

"It has happened before that a cockroach climbed into a person's ear. We should integrate methods of chemical and physical chemistry to kill them."

Like many new college graduates in China, Liu Li, 21, is busy looking for a job and running around Chongqing for interviews. But one interview she had late last month left her shocked and angry.

According to the *Jiangnan Times newspaper*, Liu is a Chinese Language and Literature major at a university in Chongqing. On March 22, on a recommendation from her department at the university, Liu went for a job interview at a joint venture company.

Having read many accounts of people being put in embarrassing situations during interviews, Liu brought along a mini tape recorder just in case.

Her interviewer, a middle-aged man, started with some standard questions, but then suddenly asked, "Do you have a boyfriend?"

Liu was unprepared for the question and mumbled an answer of, "Yes, I do." Her interviewer seemed displeased and asked more questions that made Liu feel uncomfortable.

"Are you in favor of extramarital sexual behavior?" "Do you live with your boyfriend?" "How would you respond if a potential client made sexual advances towards you?"

Confronting the man's piercing gaze, Liu gave vague answers. The interviewer was not happy and then took up a ruler to try to measure Liu's body. Liu found the situation unbearable and stormed out of the interview.

Liu intends to sue the company for infringement of her human dignity, as there is no legal definition of sexual harassment in China.

Do the questions Liu was asked constitute sexual harassment?

ual harassment?

L i Tao, male, Deputy Secretary General of the Cultural Development Center for Rural Women

Yes, I think that is sexual harassment. Acts of mental abuse and humiliation should be defined as sexual harassment.

In this particular case, we should look at the environment in which the case occurred. It was a corporate interview and the questions asked have no connection to her work abilities. Such questions are targeted at women and reek of sexual discrimination. Would a male candidate be asked the same questions? Absolutely not.

Many organizations, when recruiting women, have requirements regarding their age, appearance and height. They look at women as commercial products and expect them to offer services including their bodies. Women are discriminated against and humiliated, and their roles in society are undervalued.

Zhang Ran, female, graduate student at the School of Journalism and Communication at Beijing University

Well, I don't think this is sexual harassment, but it's definitely sexual discrimination.

I would get very angry if I were asked such questions. Boys would not be treated the same way. Interviewers see you as a woman, not a candidate. Clearly they think women should sacrifice themselves when needed, or they would not ask such questions. They think female employees are willing to exchange sex for their jobs

or their means of living. That is discrimination.

Fang Zhiyuan, male, Lawyer, Beijing Wisdom Law Firm

It is hard to say. Asking questions does not necessarily constitute sexual harassment because when such questions are raised during an interview, the person being interviewed can refuse to answer them.

In most cases, sexual harassment

find people who have the skills, attitude and abilities needed to complete certain tasks. Those questions don't fall under this scope.

Simply making queries about others' private affairs can't constitute the infringement of others' rights. Only when a person spreads private information or slanders another person can it be considered an infringement of a person's rights.

But, this man's actions sure

sexual harassment is not just a private problem. It is an issue that has implications for all employees. It affects morale, and eventually the productivity and the quality of a work environment.

I know there have been cases of verbal sexual harassment abroad.

I believe the questions Liu Li was asked were very offensive, which is a measure of sexual harassment. I really doubt that anyone would want to work with or for this guy.

I am pretty sure there have been no such cases at companies like mine. We have very standardized recruitment methods and policies.

Jonathan Kos-Read, male, actor and scriptwriter from the US

This, I think, is a simple question. It breaks down to two main issues - the legal definition of sexual harassment and the moral definition.

Legally, sexual harassment is whatever the state defines it to be. Answering the question would be simply a matter of looking up the relevant statutes in a Chinese law book.

Morally, both in the United States and in China, people would generally define workplace sexual harassment as putting an employee or potential employee in a position in which he or she feels sexually obligated or sexually taken advantage of by a superior or potential superior.

In this case, most people would define it as sexual harassment from a moral standpoint.

In the US, from a legal standpoint, it would almost certainly be considered by a court to be sexual harassment.

By Ivy Zhang

SOUND BITES

"With Japan's economic downturn, Koizumi intended to boost his flagging popularity by visiting the shrine even though he risked world condemnation by doing so."

— Luo Huanzhang, a research fellow at China's Academy of Military Sciences, reacting to Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's latest visit to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine

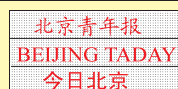
"Faced with intolerance and hatred, no debate is possible. Just as I did not accept any alliance in the past with the National Front... I will not accept a debate with its leader in the future,"

— Jacques Chirac, French President, at a rally in Rennes on April 23, his first campaign stop since the upset vote on Sunday that sent Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the far-right National Front Party, through to a second-round run-off for the French presidency next month

"Bearing in mind the length of time this case has already gone on, it's absurd to suggest that there is still an ongoing investigation into Mr. Raissi. It's time that this whole sorry farce came to an end. It's time that his absolute innocence is recognized."

— Richard Egan, lawyer for Lotfi Raissi, 27, an Algerian pilot accused by the US of training some of the September 11 hijackers after a British judge ruled that charges against him were unsubstantiated

By Chen Ying



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National Team Already Winners

Beijingers prefer to watch the games live

Although only 4% of those surveyed say they will definitely go to South Korea (and Japan, should China make it through to the second round), less than 40% say they have no plans to attend the World Cup at all.

Nearly 49% say they would spend up to 30,000 yuan to attend the cup, and 10% say they may spend between 30,000 and 50,000 yuan.

Almost all the surveyed, regardless of age and sex, say they will definitely watch the World Cup on television.

But around 45% say they will only watch games

Will Beijingers go to South Korea and Japan to cheer for the Chinese team in the coming World Cup? If so, how much are they prepared to spend? Who is the most popular Chinese player? What do Beijingers expect from the national team? Who is favorite to win?

the "most attractive player" hands-down, with slightly over 25% of the vote, followed by Hao Haidong (14%), Fan Zhiyi (11%) and Sun Jihai (9%).

However, most respondents emphasize technique and capability of the players in selecting the Chinese stars in the World Cup.

the top 16.

However, nearly 46% insist that regardless of the result, he should continue to coach the team.

Even losing they are still heroes

40% of the surveyed express confidence that the Chinese team will make it through to the top 16. 12% are optimistic that they will make it to the top eight or even further.

Other teams considered to be in contention are England (4%), Germany and Spain (each at 3%) and Portugal (2%). Around 9% say the winner will be a dark horse.

Meanwhile, the "Brazilian Samba" enjoys the widest appreciation among Beijingers at 35%, followed by 17% for the "Argentinean Tango", 13% for the "French Muskateer" and 12% for "Teutonic Machine". All these terms are well accepted as characteristics of these football teams among Chinese people.

Domestic media covers a variety of football information

Beijingers give the domestic media four out of five for football reporting based on the quantity and quality of coverage.

Meanwhile, nearly 60% of the surveyed say they are certain that there will be a new style in World Cup coverage, such as interviews with former winners and live broadcasting of the training of the top world teams.

Football hooliganism remains a concern

Over 52% of the surveyed say they are worried that there will be trouble caused by football hooligans, although there is awareness that Britain is negotiating with Japan and South Korea and making efforts to ensure its reputation in this regard is bettered.

Furthermore, 31% believe that Chinese football fans share some similarities with football fans in other countries, including those hooligans. 22% say that Chinese football fans may be more likely to be called troublemakers.

Meanwhile, nearly all the surveyed agree that hosting the World Cup will bring prosperity for local businesses.

(The survey commissioned by Beijing Youth Daily and DataSea was conducted among 205 Beijingers with an average age of 37, including 69% male and 31% female.)

(Su Wei)

Brazil favorite to win

27% of the surveyed predict that Brazil will take the World Cup this time, followed by 17% each for France and Argentina. Less than 6% say the Italian team will win.

Yang Chen, with a support rate of around 13%, ranks fourth among the mentioned football players.

Sun Jihai tops the voting among Chinese football players in terms of talent, for his excellent performance during the league matches (around 19%), followed by Li Tie (15%), Hao Haidong (14%), Yang Chen (13%), Fan Zhiyi (10%), Qi Hong (5%) and Li Weifeng (2%).

Meanwhile, nearly 50% of the surveyed believe that a "new" Pele and "new" Maradona will emerge at the World Cup.

Chinese football in upper rank in Asia

47% of the surveyed say the strongest Asian team is Japan, followed by South Korea (26%). The Chinese team is ranked first by a little over 11%.

However almost all the surveyed agree that the level of men's football in China is below the international standard. They give less than 2.5 out of 5 points on a world ranking but nearly four points for the Asian ranking.

Few of the surveyed express disapproval with any aspects of the current arrangements for Chinese football players and their warm-up matches.

More than 60% say they are satisfied with the current arrangements, including 20% who are in total agreement.

20% of the surveyed say head coach Bora Milutinovic (or Milu as he is known in Chinese), need not be retained as coach if the Chinese team enters

in which the Chinese team is playing, while less than 10% say they will only watch games involving their favorite teams or the top world teams.

Domestic league takes back seat

Nearly 42% of those surveyed say they would not consider watching a domestic league match on television, even if they have the time, while almost 60% will consider looking at a domestic match if it does not conflict with a cup match.

Most of the games are to be played during the day. As there is only a one hour time difference, this means during working hours in China.

However 13% say the World Cup is so important, they will try to avoid work in order to watch the important matches.

In contrast, 36% say they would take any opportunity to watch the games while at work. 49% say work comes before watching football and will only watch replays or games on weekends.

Most popular players not equivalent to best performing

Yang Chen wins the ti-

Saudi Arabia

South Korea

Which Asian team will perform better at the World Cup?

Japan

China

Don't know

Weekly Survey

Broadband Less Popular

A survey conducted among people with internet connections at home in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Nanjing has revealed that less than 5% use broadband.

Among those having adopted broadband, the percentages in Guangzhou and Shanghai are higher than in Nanjing and Beijing, each at slightly over 6% and 5% respectively.

Although all the surveyed surf the Internet more than three times a week, they mainly use the net to send and receive Email, download information, chat or play online games.

Few people said they trade stocks, request programs or shop online. Meanwhile, almost none of the surveyed use the Internet for distance education, intellectual community services or medical consultation.

The survey also shows that less than 14% are considering use broadband within the next two years. Shanghai residents are the most likely to install broadband, about 21% of the surveyed.

Over 21% say the fees for broadband are too high and 19% don't think it necessary to surf the Internet at home.

Chinese Oppose Human Cloning

Recently www.horizonkey.com conducted a survey among 4,000 people in ten Chinese cities to find out people's opinions on cloning, especially cloning humans.

Nearly 75% say they know something about the technique of cloning or have read relevant reports.

The degree of familiarity is consistent with people's education background. Over 93% of the surveyed with university degree and above say they are familiar with the concept and have also discussed cloning with their friends.

Among the almost 3,000 who know something about cloning, only 10% say they would be willing to be cloned. But over 82% of the surveyed totally opposed the cloning of human beings. The remainder consider it may not be too bad to clone a human being.

Nearly half of the surveyed people say scientists should be supported to conduct research in cloning. Only 37% of the surveyed are opposed to cloning in general.

Variety of Interpretations of 'Social Class'

China Economic Monitoring Center has conducted a survey among over 700 citizens in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou on their attitude to the division of society into different social classes.

Over 78% of the surveyed admit there is a disparity among people in different social classes, but they believe people should not emphasize the differences caused by their social status to maximize their individual benefit.

However, nearly 22% highlight the negative effect of such divisions, and call on the government to solve the conflicts they see as inevitably arising from such divisions.

Meanwhile, 70% of the surveyed say they there is nothing wrong for people in different social classes to occupy different social resources such as social status and wealth.

But 31% of the surveyed insist that people should have the right to occupy equal social resources. They believe a disparity in the division of social resources would endanger the basis of a socialist society.

The survey also finds that nearly 63% believe that wealth is the most effective resource in terms of dividing social classes, followed by 60% considering education and personal capability.

In contrast slightly over 50% say the nature of employment is more important and think power is the embodiment of money and social status.

However, 44% of the surveyed say personal trust should be the basis for dividing social classes. They point out that in the modern world especially, more people have given emphasis to social relationships and are concerned with their reputation.

Shenyang Crime Boss Executed



Liu Yong, the former Shenyang People's Congress delegate and leader of a criminal gang was arrested in July 2000

A 40-year-old former People's Congress delegate and high-flying businessman in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, was executed last week.

Liu Yong was once a high profile business tycoon in Shenyang boasting 700 million yuan in assets, over 20 enterprises and a staff of more than 3,000.

In July 2000, he was arrested and charged with organizing a criminal gang and 32 other crimes committed over a four and a half year period that left one person dead and dozens injured.

Last week, Liu and his 21 accomplices were sentenced at the Tieling Intermediate People's Court. Liu was sentenced to death on nine charges, including organizing and leading a criminal gang, illegal business operation, bribery, obstructing judicial investigation and illegal possession of firearms.

During the investigation of Liu's case, a total of 52 people were implicated, as well as a number of corrupt bureaucrats.

Illegal monopoly

In 1995, Liu contracted to run the Zhonghua Shopping Mall in Taiyuan Street by means of bribing the heads of the Heping District Labor Bureau in Shenyang.

Liu and his gang subsequently expanded their business scope to establish a monopoly on sales of tobacco, garments, food and beverages, entertainment and real estate, using illegal, often violent measures.

In October 1999, Liu was informed that a lessee named Wang Yongxue was selling Yunwushan and Xiangshan cigarettes without Liu's authorization. Liu instructed his men to give Wang a "good beating," which they did so vigorously that Wang died on the spot. People who gathered around were threatened to mind their own business.

After that incident, other tobacco sellers in the shopping mall switched to other businesses, giving Liu a monopoly from which he profited tens of millions yuan.

Taking on the law

In June 1999, three officers from Liaoning Technology Supervision Information Research Institute went to check on the Baijia supermarket run by Liu.

The officers declared that the liquor and cosmetics on sale failed to reach regulated standards, and were subsequently attacked and pursued by Liu's men. No further action has been taken on this case to date.

According to investigations by Shenyang police, Liu employed more than 50 thugs from 1995 to 2000, armed with guns and knives. A group led by Liu Yong's brother Liu Jun, and a former sergeant of the Heping District police station also participated in Liu's organization.

Building a safety net

With his economic power growing, Liu set about bribing key government officials to protect him.

His three key protectors were Liu Shi, the former chief prosecutor of Shenyang People's Procuratorate, Gao Mingxian, the former party secretary of Heping District Labor Bureau and Jiao Meigui,

former deputy president of the Shenyang Intermediate People's Court.

With such powerful backing, most of Liu's crimes were conveniently ignored. On the occasions he did find himself in trouble, he was always able to quickly extricate himself with the help of his connections.

"During our investigation, all the victims were afraid to talk to the police," said Meng Hui, an investigator from the Shenyang Public Security Bureau. "Many were so fearful of the power wielded by Liu that they did not dare tell us what happened even after his arrest."

How Liu became a People's Congress delegate

Liu contrived to be awarded numerous titles such as "model worker", "award-winning poverty-relief individual" and "award-winning entrepreneur." The most impressive of these was "People's Congress delegate", which Liu displayed prominently on his business card.

It was former party secretary of Heping District Labor Bureau Gao Mingxian, who nominated Liu as a People's Congress delegate.

In her recommendation, Gao concealed an important fact, though she was well aware of it herself. In 1992, Liu had shot and injured a policeman, a crime for which he was later arrested and placed on a three-year probation.

With the approval of her boss, Ling Dexiu, then Director of the Heping District Labor Bureau, Gao skipped the normal discussion procedure and officially recommended Liu as a candidate. In return, Ling and Gao received 100,000 yuan and 110,000 yuan respectively from Liu.

At the end of 1997, Liu became the 12th Shenyang People's Congress delegate with 197 votes in his favor at the Heping District People's Congress. A total of 235 representatives participated in the vote.

"Liu Yong's profile looked great," says Feng Youwei, a People's Congress delegate from Liaoning Province. "Nobody knew him and the candidates don't meet with the representatives. He fooled the representatives."

Notorious behavior

After securing his political position, Liu began to further expand his connection base.

In 1998, he paid US\$20,000 to the secretary of Shenyang's deputy-managing mayor Ma Xiangdong. In return, Ma allocated 24,000 square meters of land to Liu in the Zhongjie Business Zone, worth 350 million yuan.

Liu then set about demolishing the buildings on the land. "When it came to the former Zhongjie Pharmacy, Liu's men broke in with knives and clubs, destroying articles and assaulting people. A total of four people were injured on site and others managed to escape," said Hou Zhiqiao, a sergeant from Shenyang Public Security Bureau.

This incident was widely publicized, however thanks to Liu's network of protectors, it was covered up, and remains officially "unsolved."

(By Xinhua / Ivy Zhang)



Unlike the "mummies" and "dry corpses" found elsewhere, the body of Xinzhui excavated at Ma Wang Dui, Changsha, Hunan province, was as fresh as if it had just been buried

A 2,200 Old Beauty



Elaborate clothing of Xin Zhui, the wife of a Western Han Dynasty prime minister excavated at Xinzhu's tomb



Xinzhui at the age of 18



Xinzhui at the age of 30



Xinzhui at the age of 50



Xinzhui at the age of 50

By Zhang Huan

This Sunday, Hunan Provincial Museum will unveil a portrait made from a 2,200 year old corpse unearthed at the Han Dynasty "Ma Wang Dui" tombs.

The portrait, by Professor Zhao Chengwen of the China Criminal Police College, depicts Xin Zhui, the wife of Western Han Dynasty prime minister.

Xin Zhui died in 186 BC at around the age of 50. Using X-rays and various forensic techniques, Professor Zhao has drawn three frontal portraits of Xin Zhui, depicting her facial features at the age of 18, 30 and 50, and a profile view at the age of 50.

The portraits present Xin Zhui as a beauty. At the age of 18, she has rosy cheeks, thin eyebrows, big eyes and thin lips with a sense of intelligence; at 30, she is a little more plump, her eyebrows stick up a little and her eyes suggest capability and rich experience; at 50, Xin Zhui looks more elegant and poised, but unwell, with crow's-feet and pouches under her eyes.

It is the second time Professor Zhao has created a head portrait from an ancient corpse.

The first was of an imperial concubine of the Ming Dynasty unearthed in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province. He says the work of restoring Xin Zhui was more difficult, as she lived during a much earlier period.

At the beginning of this year, the Hunan Provincial Museum planned to move the Ma Wang Dui exhibit to a new hall.

Professor Zhao's work in recreating a portrait of the Ming Dynasty concubine attracted the attention of the museum staff, and they asked him to create portraits of Xin Zhui.

Recreating the past by synthesizing various sciences

The reference for Professor Zhao's restoration work is Xin Zhui's skull X-ray, photographs taken when she was first unearthed, paintings on silk from Ma Wang Dui and various historical documents.

In Zhao's eyes, as long as the skull remains intact, the 2,000-year-old corpse is no different from one found in a criminal case.

The first step is to scan Xin Zhui's skull X-ray into a computer and then overlay four horizontal and five vertical lines to specify the position and size of the eyes, ears, nose and mouth, according to standard art theory.

After that, he inputs all the related information into the Police Portrait Simulation System developed by Zhao himself, and finds matches for the various facial features.

The final step is to complete the portrait synthetically, applying both art and biological theory.

As an expert in simulating head portraits, Zhao developed the Police Portrait Simulation System combining his practical experience with computer technology.

The final portraits still await proof and test

According to Zhao, the margin of error in his technique is within 10 percent. When making portraits from corpses in criminal cases, Zhao relies on the skull.

However this time, he could only refer to an X-ray of the skull. According to Yi Weili, dean of the medical jurisprudence department of the China Criminal Police College, the portraits are lacking in the third dimension, though Zhao's rich medical knowledge could make up for this lack of information to some degree.

Zhao also had to use some guesswork when determining the accessories and dress of Xin Zhui.

Curator of Hunan Provincial Museum Chen Jianming said the museum would

organize archaeologists and historians to make a survey of hair decorations and dressings of Xin Zhui after receiving a computer file of Zhao's finished portraits.

Sunday April 28, the day Hunan Provincial Museum will unveil the portraits of Xin Zhui at the 30th anniversary of the discovery.

Backgrounder:

Three imperial tombs of the Han Dynasty (202 BC - AD 220) were

discovered in the eastern suburbs of Changsha, capital of Hunan Province, when the local army was digging air-raid shelters in 1972.

The "Ma Wang Dui" tombs belonged to Li Cang, a prime minister of Changsha kingdom in the Western Han Dynasty, his wife Xin Zhui and their son.

The tomb belonging to Xin Zhui is the best preserved. When the casket was opened, the body was found to be intact, the skin still fine and smooth and the subcutaneous tissue still resilient.

She was luxuriously dressed with 29 hair decorations and 20 layers of elaborate clothing.

More than 3,000 valuable relics were also discovered, including silk fabrics, paintings and books on silk, lacquer ware, pottery, musical instruments, weapons, food, medicinal herbs and perfumes.

(Photos by Xinhua)



Professor Zhao Chengwen of the China Criminal Police College, creator of the Xin Zhui portraits



Profitability Looms For home of Beijing's Bohemian Bourgeoisie

Bu Shi Xinyu

After nearly three years of steady growth, Starbucks Beijing is closing to making a profit.

"That is the best proof of recognition in Beijing, the capital of a country where tea has been the drink of choice for thousands of years," says David Sun, the American-born Chinese who acquired the north China licence for the US based café chain.

Sun sits in the corner of an L-shaped open-plan office he shares with about 30 people. His space looks a little crowded, with a desk, a PC, two sofas and several chairs. "I enjoy working in an open atmosphere," says Sun, "and this place allows me to have the widest visual field in the office."

At present, Sun oversees 28 Starbucks in Beijing and Tianjin, with 10 new stores opening every year. "The current pace is satisfactory; fast-paced, but not rushed," he says.

The idlest one in the office

Sun has no personal secretary. He writes his own memos on a large calendar, which occupies the center of his desk, and arranges all his appointments and meetings himself. "All my working partners are so excellent that they make me the idlest one in the office," says Sun with a smile of satisfaction, "so if someone came to work as my personal secretary, he or she would be bored to death within a few days."

Sun's secret of management is to distribute power to the front and give employees at all levels solid training to ensure they are qualified to represent the company. Every week, he visits one or two stores, prepared to solve any difficulties that may have arisen on site. But till now, he says, he has not had the chance to offer any help.

Sun describes his company as a smoothly running automatic machine. He attributes this smooth running to the perfect application of the principle: one cup at a time, one customer at a time.

Sun clearly knows coffee will never replace tea in China. He himself is a good example. There are always two cups on his desk, the one with a cover is for tea and the one without is for coffee. Usually he consumes two or three cups of coffee a day, taking it as the alternative to tea. And that is the idea of Starbucks. He insists that his business is a service company serving coffee, rather than a coffee company providing service; a third place after home and the office where people can relax. This, he believes, is the key to the success of the Starbucks chain.

From Golden Arches to Green Mermaid

Before launching the Starbucks franchise in Beijing, Sun had experience in a number of such businesses around the world. Opening the first McDonalds in Taiwan is no doubt the most significant of these.

In the early 1980s, Sun was working in the US as a computer programmer. A visit to McDonalds' headquarters with a friend changed his life. After a series of interviews, Sun was granted the rights to open the McDonalds' franchise in Taiwan. However at that time, the local government had strict regulations governing overseas invested businesses and they refused Sun's first application in 1981 on the grounds that "we have enough restaurants."

"Over the following three years, my friends and I went about lobbying various officials," Sun recalls. "Finally, they decided that our restaurant could stimulate farmers' enthusiasm to plant tomatoes and vegetables and could create new employment opportunities."



Photos by Jakey

★ "Everyone has a choice in the morning, to be in a good mood or a bad mood. I always choose to be in a good mood."

★ "Many years ago, I learnt that you must hire people who are more talented and more capable than you. Then you will be deemed as the most talented and the most capable by others."

★ "Having run fast food chain stores for more than twenty years, the saddest thing for me is that I could never be promoted!"

★ "People in Beijing possess a high sense of self-esteem, are fashion conscious and attentive to current events. As a place where people can see and can be seen, Starbucks draws the trendy and fashionable crowd; in turn drawing others to emulate."

— Quotes from David Sun

In 1984, the first McDonalds opened on East Minsheng Road, Taipei, to an exceptionally enthusiastic reception. Hundreds of people queued outside the restaurant, patiently waiting for a seat. In the following several years McDonalds boomed, with over 70 restaurants opening all over the island.

"I have competitors but no enemies"

Sun's shirts could never be mistakenly taken to belong to someone else, not only because they all have his family name embroidered in bright colors, but also because the embroidered characters all lie at belly height; to the left of the fifth button from the neck. Sun says this is a habit he has stuck to since he was in his twenties.

"Most people take the mark as a stain at first sight, but some curious ones give it a second glance, then they find it is not so simple," Sun smiles. "If they want to make sure of what it is, they have to lower their head and some taller guys even need to stoop down before me. Then I would say, 'Hey, why are you bowing to me?'" Sun says he has made many friends from this little game.

As a businessman, Sun says his biggest success is to have lot of friends, "In business, I have competitors, but in private, I dare to say I have no enemies." Many of Sun's former colleagues in Taiwan McDonalds now are involved in fast-food chain stores in the Chinese mainland. So when he is traveling around across China in his spare time, he often goes to the local McDonalds or KFC when he feels lonely. "I will ask the waiter who is their local head and mostly I will get an old pal's name," Sun says, "Then I will call that guy and spend a few happy hours chatting."

Taking retirement in installations

On the wall of Sun's office hang several photos of his family. The most remarkable is a picture of his wife taken when she was in her twenties, a typical oriental beauty. The couple met in the United States and married seven years later. Once when they were talking about the funny things of their childhood, they discovered that they had grown up in the same street, during almost the same period in Hong Kong.

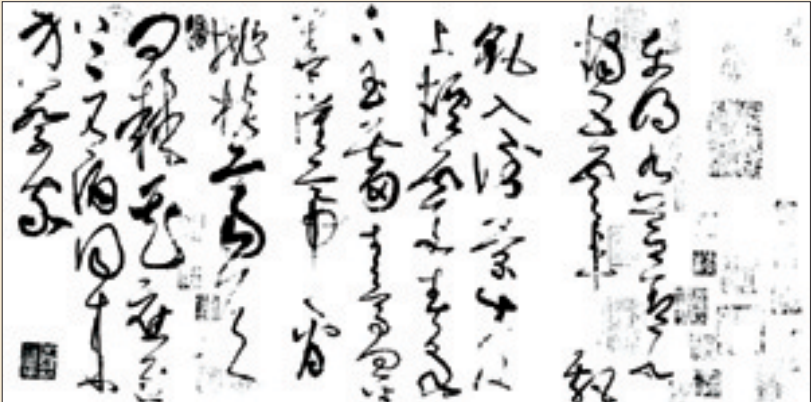
Sun's wife and daughter live with him in Beijing, and their two sons are in America. According to Sun, his wife often accuses him of spoiling the kids. "I just want to give them the right to make decisions for their own life," he explains. Sun's 15-year-old daughter came to Beijing last August, and there is an agreement between her and her father that if she cannot adjust to life in Beijing in one year's time, she can go back to America. "She still feels somewhat lonely here and has made up her mind to return," Sun says with a regret for her coming departure, "So in this coming May Day holiday, my wife and I will cancel our original plan to go to Barcelona and accompany her to Thailand instead."

Having been in the workforce for thirty years, 55-year-old Sun says he has practiced his idea of taking retirement in "installations". "I spend some two or three months traveling whenever I can manage, or at least several hours quietly reading."

"My attitude towards things is to be positive and optimistic all the time," he says, "together with the sense of responsibility and the experience, that is the foundation of my life."



← Wang Xizhi's Lanting Jixu (353AD). The best known example of running script, the original was entombed with Emperor Taizong of the Tang Dynasty.



→ "Crazy Zhang's" Four Poems (circa 750 AD)

Calligraphy Trends: Preservation, Reformation and Avant-garde

By Miao Yajie

Reading art history or contemplating works of art can be both edifying and downright amusing. Not only because of the ideas conveyed by the pieces themselves, but also through the personalities of the artists. This holds equally true for the art of calligraphy; strange stories and anecdotes about luminaries of this ancient discipline are as numerous as seashells on a beach. Some have been retold for generations and have been familiar to many since childhood. Anecdotes about the unconventional and uninhibited behavior of Eastern Jin Dynasty calligrapher Wang Xizhi (321-379), known as 'Calligraphy Saint', and Tang Dynasty (618-907) calligraphers Zhang Xu and Huai Su known as 'Crazy Zhang and Drunken Su', continue to entertain people today. Wang Xizhi shocked his future father-in-law by exposing his belly when a emissary came to select a son-in-law among the Wang brothers. When Zhang Xu was drunk, he liked to dip a handful of his long hair in ink and use it as a writing brush.

However, even Wang Xizhi and Zhang Xu would likely be surprised by a requirement for gallery-goers to have their blood pressure measured after appreciating their calligraphy works.

Three trends

An exhibition named *Are you going to the calligraphy exhibition and to have your blood pressure measured?* by a group of young artists led by 32-year-old Zheng Guogu from Guangdong Province is to open in a Shanghai gallery this May. The group has attracted attention both within and outside calligraphy circles. They employ traditional brush, ink and Xuan paper, and mount their works on scrolls. But nothing else about their approach is conventional. After looking at the exhibition, viewers will have their blood pressure measured in the exhibition hall, in order to ascertain their physical and psychological reaction towards the exhibits.

This exhibition represents one of three current trends in the 2000-year-old brush art. The modern trend absorbs most of its concepts from western modern art, with an emphasis on the visual impact on the viewer, and depends little on traditional Chinese calligraphy technique and philosophy.

In contrast with the up-coming avant-garde show in Shanghai, an on-going exhibition at Beijing's National Museum of Chinese History represents another current calligraphy trend, which aims simply to preserve the essence of the art achieved by the ancient great masters. These works are by some of the most important names in modern Chinese art and literary



Couplet by Wu Changshuo (1844-1927), one of the most renowned engravers and calligraphers of the last 100 years.

history. They are in the style of small seal scripts, Han Dynasty tablet scripts, bronze object inscriptions, oracle-bone inscriptions, inscriptions on wooden or bamboo slips, and regular, running and cursive style scripts.

Between the traditional and the modern, there is a third group hoping to find its own way in this abstract and sublime art. Practitioners have made consistent efforts to grasp the basic rules of the art, and are trying to revamp the art form based on tradition. No particular names stand out of the crowd so far in the past fifty years.

Traditional philosophy behind calligraphy

To start with the origin, the simplest and most di-

rect definition of calligraphy, or "shufa" in Chinese, might be a method of writing, typically with brush, ink and Xuan paper.

A good calligraphy work essentially needs to be good in the following five elements: the starting stroke, the ending stroke, turning point of a stroke, the structure of a character, and the planning of the composition as a whole. Whether the straight lines are strong and clear, whether there is variance in each character or in the amount of ink on the brush, whether there is a natural balance in both the characters and the composition as a whole, whether there is a rhythm in the whole work, all contributes to the beauty of a work.

According to an ancient Chinese saying, 'One's calligraphy is oneself.' No other art form can reflect one's cultivation and understanding of traditional philosophy, aesthetics and culture as well as calligraphy.

"Based on the traditional culture, the innovation of calligraphy is unlimited," says Wu Hong'en, researcher and calligrapher at the Research Institute of Traditional Chinese Painting. The key point is based on the tradition. Aiming at the avant-garde trend, which is making the loudest noise in the calligraphy circle, Wu suggested that calligraphy does need new input in the

new era, from different art forms, different countries and different nationalities. However any exploration without a basic knowledge of traditional aesthetics, Chinese culture, philosophy and painting will not help the healthy development of the ancient art.



Calligraphy by Zheng Guogu (provided by ShanghART Warehouse)

Exhibitions:
Calligraphy through the May Fourth period
Where: National Museum of Chinese History, Beijing
When: till May 15

Are you going to the calligraphy exhibition and to have your blood pressure measured?
Where: ShanghART Warehouse, Shanghai
When: May 16-25

Anonymous Buyer Sets Auction Record

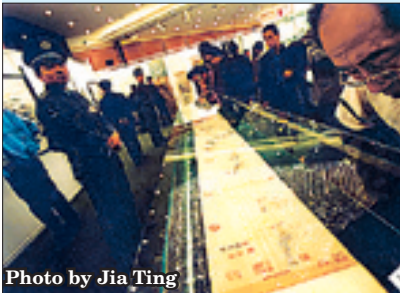


Photo by Jia Ting

Crowds of art lovers came for a glimpse of Bird Sketch, which was kept under the tightest of security during the auction preview.

By Li Lili

A hand scroll by a Song Dynasty emperor has set a new record for an artwork auctioned in China. *Bird Sketch* by Emperor Huizong (1082-1135) was bought by an anonymous buyer for 25.3 million yuan Tuesday at an auction by China Guardian at the Kunlun Hotel, Beijing. Bidding started at 7.8 million yuan, but quickly surpassed the 10 million yuan estimate.

There are 19 known paintings in existence by Emperor Huizong. *Bird Sketch*, 521.5 cm long and 27.5cm in height, was displayed to the public in a glass case under tight security guard prior to the auction.

In 1995, *Ten Odes*, a painting and calligraphy work by Song poet Zhang Xian set the previous auction record in China when it was purchased by the Palace Museum at an auction by Hanhai for 19.8 million yuan.

Beijing's Oldest Temple Under Renovation

By Zhang Ran

Beijing's oldest temple is undergoing a renovation. Tianning Temple was originally built in the year 471. During the Liao Dynasty (916-1125), a 13-story pagoda for Buddhist relics was built at the rear of the temple. This is the oldest remaining structure of the complex.



The pagoda itself was renovated in 1991. The gate and entrance hall, which are still in a poor state of repair, will be restored in the current renovation.

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Sunrise, a steel coral reef creates the impression of a rising sun illuminating the environment around it

Sculpture by Pan Yiqun

Sculptors Tackle Environmental Protection

Sculpture Exhibition appeals to social consciousness

By Zhao Pu

Forty-one sculptors have combined their talents for an exhibition to promote environmental protection at the Beijing Aquarium.

The exhibition, titled Blue Space, is the first sculpture exhibition in China focusing on ecological conservation. "It is an environmental sculpture exhibition using aquatic creatures as a symbol of ecological balance," says Luo Min, director of Baixue Fine Arts Association (BFAA), one of the oldest fine arts societies in Beijing and the exhibition's sponsor.

"We have been planning to organize an exhibition about environmental protection since last summer, and we finally chose the Beijing Aquarium as our partner because it's the best place in Beijing to present such an exhibition," says Luo. Invitations were sent out to sculptors to participate in the exhibition last December, and 80 artists volunteered to join in. By early this month, 41 artists had finished their creations.

The artists use marine animals as a theme to convey the dangers of destroying the ecological balance and the extinction of animals that results. "We wish to remind people of the fact that we should protect the environment of the earth, and that the relationships between mankind and nature should be harmonious," says Luo.

French sculptor Annie Baggenstoss, who teaches at Beijing's Shunyi International Art School, has created a work named *Life by the Seaside*. "It's like a dream," she says. "Life by the seaside means peace and relaxation for me. I lived by the seaside in France when I was young and that was my inspiration."

Some of the artists used scrap



Fish, made of plastic door curtain pieces, expresses the sculptor's wish that nature be preserved pure and unpolluted

Sculpture by Qi Jian



Bird-man, a monster of mythical appearance foretells a disaster of nature

Sculpture by Liu Baocheng



materials to emphasize their thoughts on environmental protection. Qi Jian, a 23-year-old sculptor and member of the BFAA, created a beautiful plastic fish using pieces of old door curtain.

Most of the 41 participant artists are young Chinese sculptors and art students from academies of fine arts. Four of them are foreigners, from the US, Britain, France and Nepal.

During the course of the exhibition, seminars on ecological balance and environmental protection will be held, and art discussions about environmental sculpture are also scheduled. An exhibition of children's paintings and a photography exhibition will be staged in conjunction with the sculpture exhibition.

Where: Beijing Aquarium, No. 18B Gaoliangqiao Xiejie, Haidian District
When: April 28 - July 5, 2002

Life by the Seaside, evokes dreams about relaxation and peace of life by the sea
Sculpture by Annie Baggenstoss



Photos by Zhuang Jian

Horse as Metaphor for Life



Profundity (2001-2002) by Cao Li

By Zhang Huan

Using images of horses to depict human feelings is the significant feature in Cao Li's solo exhibition, "Cao's Horse Family", which ended Wednesday at the Beijing International Arts Gallery.

"I paint varied horses, yet I express human emotions," says Cao, who is also vice-dean of the Mural Painting Department of the Central Academy of Fine Arts.

"Horses represent myself. When I paint a horse with other objects, it's me with other objects," says Cao, who was born in the year of horse. In his paintings, horses are like humans, some slim and graceful, some simple and vigorous, some warm and honest, and others cool and noble.

To make his horse paintings more accessible, Cao has adopted some original ideas in presenting this exhibition. He has arranged his most recent 55 horse paintings into ten groups, with the number of paintings in each group increasing progressively: one in the first group, two in the second group and so on until the tenth group, in which there are ten paintings.

He has also titled the pictures according to a traditional drinking game. Cao believes the words summarize people's good wishes for their life and represent Chinese folk customs, thus making his paintings more interesting and more close to people lives. "I hope my works are like pastoral poetry, showing imagination. My works are not a copy of life, but the refinement of life. Like making wine from grapes, the grapes are life and the wine is my paintings which are more strong and more intoxicating than life itself."



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Future of Pop Music is in Beijing

By Zhu Lin

Pop music heavyweight Lo Tayu is making Beijing his career base after twenty-eight years as a songwriter. "I used to compose purely out of my own impulse, but now it's time to contribute to the whole music industry," says Lo.

Lo Tayu's Music Factory is his own production house and has been an influential brand in Chinese pop music circles. "There are three major problems affecting today's pop music world," Lo points out, "Too much 'performance' with too little 'real thing'; too much technology with no efficiency; too much attitude with no harmony."

Targeting those problems, the Beijing branch of the Music Factory, which opened on April 21, is not only a boon to the market of pop music in Beijing, but also a symbol of Lo's transformation from a songwriter to a music business player.

Lo established his first Music Factory in Hong Kong in 1990, from which he launched many of his best-known CDs. In 1992, he set up a Music Factory branch in Taiwan. Now he has established a new branch in Beijing. Besides launching CDs, Lo and his colleagues plan to explore more music resources in Beijing, discovering new talents and arranging ancient Chinese musical materials.

Lo says Beijing is an appropriate place in which to create. "I can feel Beijing is changing all the time, as if the ground of Beijing is shaking," he says. "I promise, Beijing will be the center of pop music in China by the end of the next year!"

"Uhn...Hoops...The...Yeah..." Lo's first CD was released in 1982. Very few songwriters can influence a generation's life style as Lo Tayu has done. "Music is the art of time," he says.

Photo by Luker

With more than 80 kinds of products bearing his name, fashion guru Pierre Cardin has recently extended his creative scope to



opera. His musical adaptation of the opera 'Tristan and Isolde' shown at Beijing's Poly Theatre on this Tuesday and Wednesday.

At the invitation of Beijing Youth Daily's ynet.com, Cardin chat-

Pierre Cardin on Love, Music and Fashion

ted online with Chinese cyber friends earlier this week about himself and fashion. "It's my first time to chat through the Internet like this, so it's an unforgettable experience," he said.

I'm confident in China

Q: When you first invested in China, weren't you worried about the risk in investment?

A: I was confident in myself. I was confident in China and Chinese people.

Q: What do you think of the fashion trend in China?

A: Chinese fashion design has been very internationalized. I think fashion can't stay within any country. What is more important should be international fashion.



Love is the most beautiful reason for life

Q: How did you make up your mind to stage 'Tristan and Isolde'?

A: I could have been

a very good stage actor, instead of a designer if it hadn't been for the war. I've always wanted to make the story a musical.

Q: What are your thoughts about love?

A: Love is the most beautiful reason for life.

Work is the biggest reason for me to keep living

Q: How is the fashion color determined every year?

A: Fashion is a repeating course of weeding through the old to bring forth the new. This year the fashion color might be white, and the next year might change to red. The procedure is repeated again and again, it continues forever.

Q: Why do you work so hard at



Photos by Cui Jun

your age?

A: Because work is my joy. I'll work till the last day of my life. Work is the biggest reason for me to keep living.

Translated by Zh Lin

Folk Songs Touch Hearts

By Zhang Huan

Amateur performers and a strong local flavor proved a winning combination at a folk arts concert at the Forbidden City Concert Hall this week. The concert featured folksongs and dance of Zuoquan County, Shanxi Province.

Most of the performers get together only when they are giving a show. Shi Zhanming, whose solo drew the most enthusiastic applause, is actually a shepherd in Zuoquan when he is not performing in a concert hall.

Dressed in a sleeveless fur jacket with a towel tied around his head and a long whip in one hand, Shi's singing brought the house down. "The songs are just what I sing when tending sheep," Shi said afterwards. "When there's a show, they send a car to pick me up."

Sixty-three year old Zhao Lanying is the oldest in the ensemble. "It's my first time to come to a real concert to sing. I am a little afraid," she said. Her fears proved groundless, as many in

the audience originally from Shanxi regarded her songs as the most typical of Zuoquan.

"The more unrefined, the better, since it shows the regional custom and culture," commented audience-member Zhou Jian after Monday night's show. For Li Aihua, a Beijing resident originally from Shanxi, the concert was a real reminder of home. "It has been a long time since I heard such pure Shanxi folk songs," she said.

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By Li Dan

Night fly from Beijing to Kunming. Choose a night flight as the ticket is cheaper.

Itinerary I

First day, Kunming (昆明)

Buy the bus ticket for tomorrow to Lijiang in the early morning. The 527-kilometer route will take eight hours. Ticket costs 151 yuan a person. Ticket place: Kunming long-distance bus station or Panjiawan (盘龙湾) bus station.

Then tour city during the day. If you have a bizarre yen to see those loveable dancing people, then head downtown for the Nationality Park. Gate ticket: 45 yuan/person. Take the bus 44. Four hours is more than enough. Then try some authentic "cross-the-bridge-noodles". Nightlife in Kunming is colorful, with late night bars, cafes, teahouses and barbecue stands.

Second day, Lijiang (丽江)

Take the 8am bus to Lijiang. Arrive in the old town by sunset 8pm. Naxi people run small guesthouses in almost every street in town. Shabby, clean and comfortable enough, with a nice insight into Naxi daily life. Prices range from 20-30 yuan. Tianxia Diyiwan (天下第一客栈) is targeted at foreigners. Also contact the International Youth Hotel at 0888-5105403/5102345. Absolute must: a performance of the Naxi Orchestra.

Third day, Lijiang

Time is enough. There's no need to hurry for Jade Dragon Snow Mountain (Yu Long Xue Shan 玉龙雪山). Lijiang Old Town is famous among foreign travelers. Why? Simple: it never disappoints. This must be the only major resort in China where tourism authority development has enhanced — not destroyed — the original splendor and innate beauty. The Naxi wooden buildings have actually been successfully preserved rather than "restored". Stand on top of the Lion Hill and watch the town for hours. Or wander around the town to see Naxi women in traditional dress working hard to support the family. Sit in a corner eatery and try the local sweet meat-and-vegetable pancake snack, Lijiang Baba.

During the day, visit the bustling market square and buy beautiful embroidery, or visit shops around town to obtain beautiful hand-carved Naxi wooden plates. In all, the cynical traveler is forced to conclude Lijiang is rare indeed: an authentic, fascinating and beautiful tourism resort.

Fourth day, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain

In the early morning at the Post and Communications Office Building, take bus 7 to Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Bus ticket 10 yuan a person. The admission ticket to the snow mountain is 42 yuan a person. Yunshan Grassland costs 60 yuan, glacier cable car 110 yuan. There are down jackets and oxygen packages for renting. Book a ticket to Lugu Lake the next morning. Ticket place: bus station of Hong Taiyang Square of old town. Price: 54 yuan / person.

Fifth day, Lugu Lake (泸沽湖)

Take bus 9am to Lugu Lake. Change bus in Ninglang (宁蒗) and get off at Lige Peninsula. Altogether 8-10 hours. Arrive at the lake by sunset. Admission ticket 35 yuan / person. Live in Mosuo Shanzhuang (摩梭山庄) or Hu Xi Teahouse (湖西茶社). Attend the local Mosuo people's campfire party.

Sixth day, Lugu Lake

Tour the lake by boat in the morning for 50 yuan a person. Walk along the lakeside northwards. Pass by Xiaoluoshui (小落水) and Dujiacun (独家村) Village, which are of poetic charm. Book a return ticket to Lijiang.

Seventh day, Back to Lijiang

From Lugu Lake at dawn. Stay at the International Youth Hotel if you like. Book a ticket to leave Kunming the next morning.

Itinerary II

First day, Lijiang

Arrive in the old town at dawn. Take a rest for the next day's hiking through Tiger Leaping Gorge. Bring maps from bars or hotels. Better tell the driver in advance so he/she can come to pick you up the next early morning.

Second day, Tiger Leaping Gorge (虎跳峡)

Take bus at about 7:30 am. The bus brings you to the ferry crossing at noon. Ten yuan for boat. Indicator boards in English reveal place names and time needs ahead. The first guesthouse is in Hetaoyuan Village (核桃源村). It's 25 kilometers and a visitor can arrive there before 4pm. Walk another three kilometers along the gorge to find Tina's Guest House and spend the night here, or go on walking to Half Way (another guesthouse, both priced at 10-15 yuan).

According to a legend, a tiger once jumped over the huge stone in the middle of the Yangtze River. It is a valley with fame only next to the Grand Bending Valley of the Brahmaputra.

Third day, Tiger Leaping Gorge

Two choices:

- 1) Cross Jin Sha River via new ferry, then walk to Da Ju (大具) on foot. The scenery along this road was once described as the most beautiful in China and the world.
 - 2) Hike 2-3 hours to the old ferry, cross the Jin Sha River to Da Ju. 10 yuan boat fee.
- Stay at the Snow Flake Guesthouse in Da Ju, and a tip: do not forget to read the guest book.

Fourth day, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain

Leave Da Ju in the early morning. Visit Yunshan Grasslands (云杉坪), Hei Shui (黑水) and Bai Shui (白水) rivers, Gan Hai Zi (甘海子), and finally Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. There's no need to buy a ticket as you are already at the mountain. See details in Itinerary I.

Back to Lijiang at night and sleep.

Fifth day, Lijiang

Enjoy the old town with the most-est.

Itinerary III

First day

Kunming to Lijiang during the daytime, eight hours by bus.

Second day, Tiger Leaping Gorge

To hike through Tiger Leaping Gorge takes time. Then arrive at Qiao Tou at 5pm, get a bus to Zhong Dian county (中甸). Spend the night in Yong Sheng Guesthouse (永生客栈) for 50 yuan a day. Contact

Spectacular Lijiang, Tiger Leaping Gorge and the official Shangri-La supply ideal spring holidays.

Yunnan Offers Beauty, Mystery

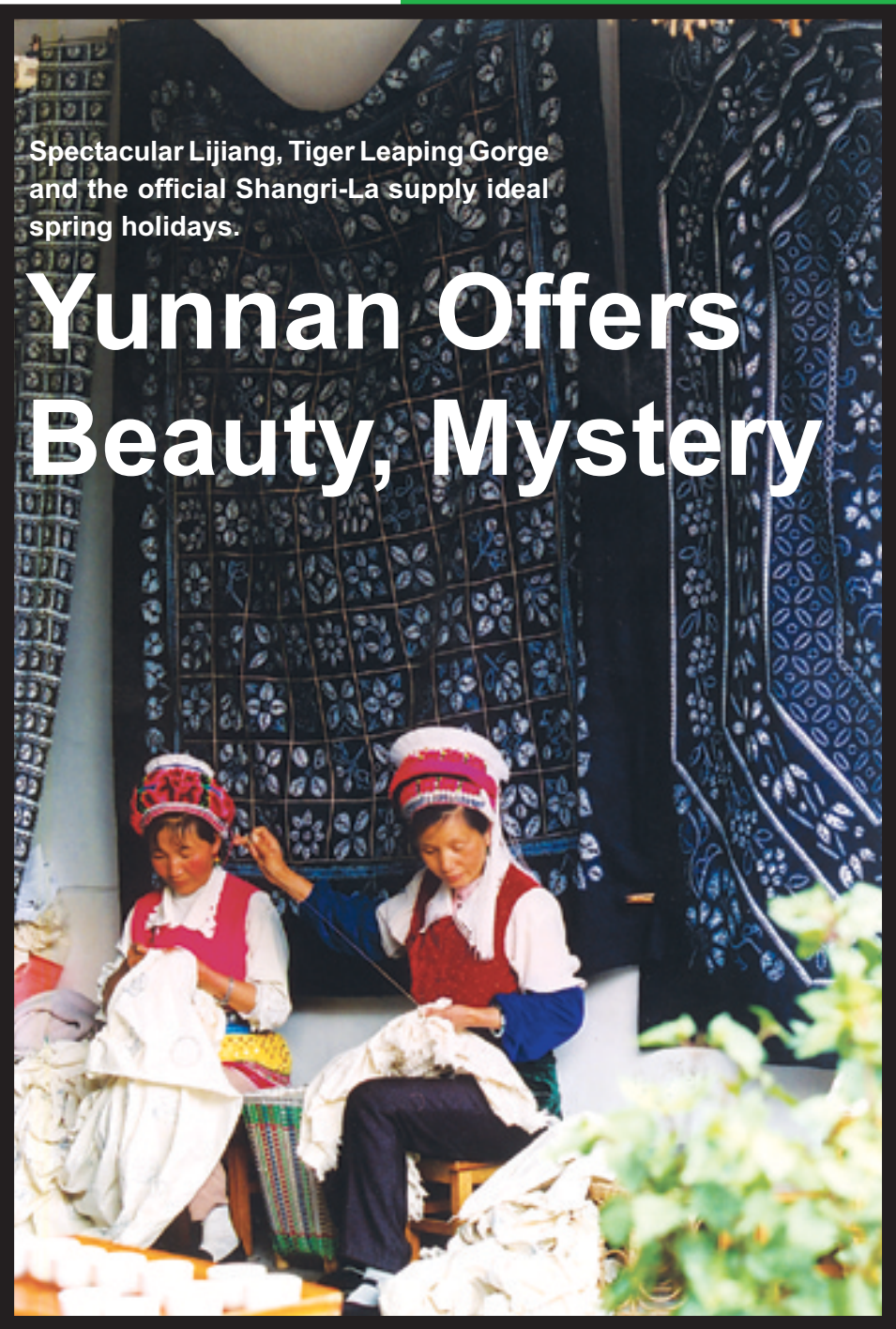


Photo by Jacky



Picture by Li Dan

Photos from Diqing Shangri-La Pamphlet



The first bend of the Yangtze River

Songzanlin Temple



Note: May 5 - May 10, Shanggri-La Art Festival, Zhongdian and Deqin County.

Unspoilt Shangri-La

By Yan Qing

I first learned the word "Shangri-La" as a hotel chain name. I didn't know what it means, but I liked the pronunciation, both in English and Chinese. Later on, my friend told me Shangri-La was a mysterious place mentioned in James Hilton's 1933 bestseller "Lost Horizon".

Shangri-La is a land of peace, away from the turmoil of the world. Nobody really knows the location of Shangri-La, but the novel hints somewhere around Tibet.

My friends and I flew from Beijing to Kunming, capital of Yunnan at the end of 2001. I skipped the "City of Spring" and proceeded directly to the ancient capital of Dali.

Dali old town is a perfect place to run away and get lost. The town sits between Mount Cang & Lake Erhai. Dali & Yangshuo have become gathering places for foreign backpackers in China, but Lijiang is the best. The United Nations placed Lijiang Old Town on its World Heritage Site list. Lijiang is a delightful maze of cobbled streets and ancient canals.

The nearby Tiger Leaping Gorge is the deepest in the world. The altitude drops about 12,800 feet. The gorge was so narrow at the Tiger Leaping Stone that the river roared from the depths below. People could hardly hear each other over the tumult.

We also went to the First Bend of the Yangtze. Over there, the river takes a dramatic turn, and instead of heading south to Vietnam, it heads east. From there, it shaped Chinese culture and changed the world.

After Tiger Leaping Gorge, we headed all the way to Zhongdian. Zhongdian is about 120 miles northwest of Lijiang. Zhongdian has the most important Tibetan lamasery in southwest China, Songzanlin, and it's surrounded by beautiful meadows of azaleas. After pictures, we headed to Deqin.

The road to Deqin is the worst I have ever come across, and it is dangerous too. Many times I was so scared I was not sure if I would ever make it home. People not used to high altitude may experience mountain sickness. Cars also experience mountain sickness. At such high altitude, the gas cannot burn completely. We had to slow down climbing the mountain.

However, all the hardship paid off. About 80 miles from Zhongdian sits Mount Baimang. The entire mountain is covered with blooming flowers. There is a meadow near the top of the mountain, and horses and cows wander around. Blue sky, white cloud, snow peaks, large meadows, animals and flowers: a perfect picture. I wish I could live there forever.

We spent a few hours at Mount Baimang, and headed to our destination, the sacred Meli Snow Mountain. The mountain is one of the most beautiful snow peaks in China. At 6,740 meters (22,113 feet) high, Meli Snow Mountain is Yunnan's highest and most challenging. The Kagebo peak has never been climbed, and buried many mountaineers. Locals believe those mountaineers have made the spirit of the "virgin peak" angry.

When I first saw the mountain, I was overwhelmed. Even though Kagebo was behind the clouds as always, I felt the power of its beauty. Mingyong Glacier, the lowest in China, looked like a waterfall pouring from heaven.

The next morning we woke up early, and went to another viewing spot to see the Kagebo. We saw almost the entire Kagebo peak. I cannot find any word to describe my feelings. The entire pyramid-shaped peak was covered with snow, and it wears a beautiful golden dress under the morning sunshine. As the sun rises higher, the peak turned whiter and purer. I was so anxious and greedy to see the entire view of the mountain. However, clouds quickly covered the peak.

We were indeed very lucky. All the Tibetans we met that morning told us so. Kagebo had not showed up for 38 consecutive days. As we watched the fog and cloud rise from the glacier and cover the peak, we turned our heads with satisfaction.

Wow, stunned again. The sky was so clear, and we were surrounded by Meli and Baimang. Azaleas were all over the place. Not far from there, a beautiful Tibetan village and temple sit in the middle of farmland. I was walking in a dream. This was my Shangri-La indeed.

When we had to leave, I constantly turned my head back. Why can't such beautiful moments in our lives last longer? We headed back to Lijiang in the afternoon and spent another 2 day in the old town. The ancient town features the Naxi people and the interesting Dongba culture and we easily burned another day. When it was time to leave for the airport, we all agreed we would return. This entire trip was unforgettable.

On the one hand, I wish the trip could have been more comfortable. But on the other hand, sadly I realize only that kind of hardship prevents humans from destroying my Shangri-La.

Photo by Jacky



Dragons Roar

By Wang Dandan

Legend tells us that the billowy Yellow River (Huang He) and the Yangtzi River (Changjiang) are two giant dragons, acknowledged as the cradles of ancient Chinese civilizations. During this seven-day trip, mind you don't step on the dragon's tail.

Targets for tour: Yungang Grottoes (Yungang Shiku), Hengshan, Wooden Pagoda, Wutaishan, Pingyao ancient city, and four courtyards.

Route: Beijing (北京) - Badaling (八达岭) - Huailai (怀来) - Xuanhua (宣化) - Datong (大同) - Hengshan (恒山) - Yingxian (应县) - Wutaishan (五台山) - Taiyuan (太原) - Pingyao (平遥) - Qixian (祁县) - Taiyuan (太原) - Shijiazhuang (石家庄) - Beijing (北京)

Journey duration: seven days

First day: Drive in the morning from Beijing down Badaling expressway, Jingzhang expressway and Jingda expressway to arrive at Datong (about 300 kms). Three famous temples as Huayan Temple (Huayansi), Shanhua Temple (Shanhua) and Jueshan Temple (Jueshansi). Then stay overnight in Datong and leave for Yungang Grottoes the next day.

Second day: Drive 16 kms west from Datong to Yungang Grottoes. Yungang Grottoes, more than 1,500 years after their execution, are masterpieces of Buddhist sculpture. Drive 61 kms to Hunyuan and stay there for the night.

Third day: Drive 10 kms to Heng Shan, one of the five famous mountains in China. Drive 50 kms to Yingxian. Take a look at the wooden pagoda, the highest and the oldest wooden structure today in China. It is a pity visitors are not allowed to walk up the pagoda due to preservation. Drive 80 kms to Wutai Shan.

Fourth day: The whole day for this mountain won't be a meaningless visit. As one of China's ancient Buddhist sites, the Five Terrace Mountain (Wutai Shan) is a quiet area that, despite recent tourist infiltration, still retains its Buddhist roots.

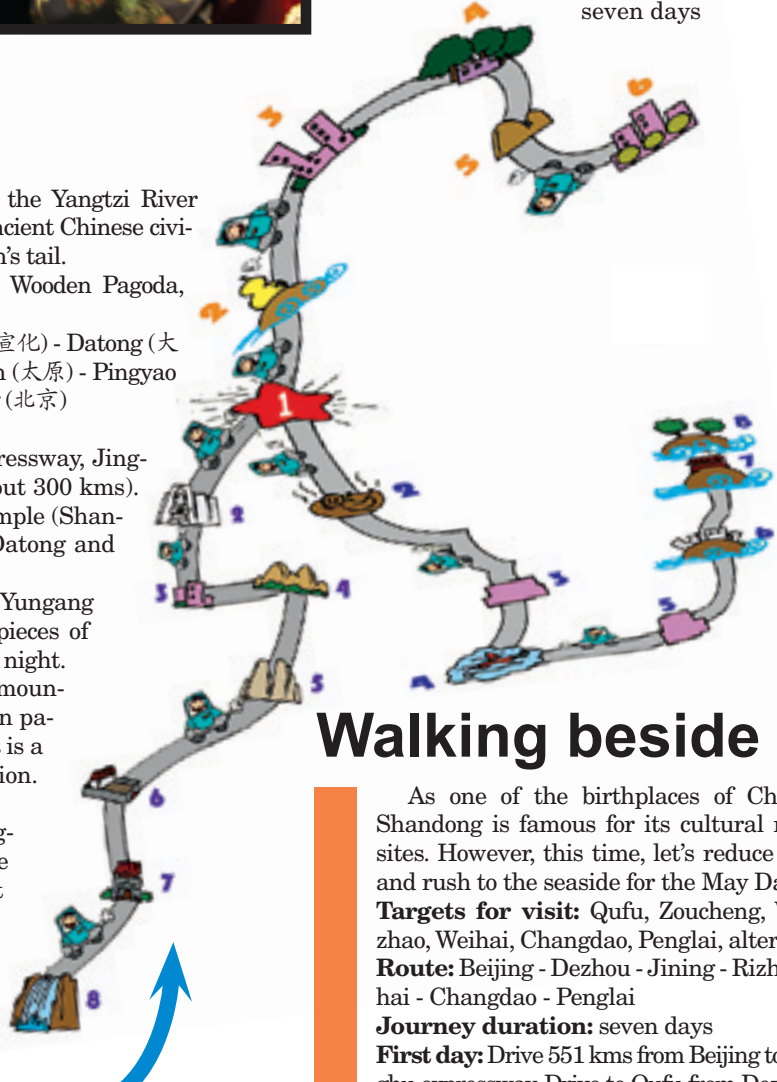
Fifth day: Drive to Pingyao ancient city. Pingyao is the only city in China admitted to the World Heritage. Drive 250 kms to Jixian and 45kms further west from Jixian to the Hukou Waterfalls. Have dinner at one of the old restaurants.

Or just forget Hukou Waterfalls as it takes a long time to go there and go back. Directly go to Qixian from Pingyao to look at the great mansions of Shanxi Province.

Sixth day: Drive 260 kms back to Qixian either from Hukou Waterfalls or just 30 kms from Pingyao. Through all Shanxi tours, four mansion are must-sees.

Shanxi's prosperity throughout history has left it many magnificent residential houses. One of the most famous is the Qiao Family Mansion in Qiaojiabu Village in Qixian County, 54 kilometers south of Taiyuan. Built in 1755 in the Qing Dynasty, the mansion occupies an area of 0.872 hectares. There are many distinguished houses like the Qiao Family scattered across central Shanxi. For example, there is the Sanduo Mansion that belonged to the Cao family in Beiguang Village of Taigu County, the Qu Family Mansion in Qixian, and the Wang Family Mansion in Jingsheng Village, Lingshi County.

Seventh day: A day of rest. This demanding tour is finished and drive back to Beijing down the Shitai and Jingshi expressways.



Map Legend

Liaoning route (top): 1. Beijing (北京), 2. Huludao (葫芦岛), 3. Shenyang (沈阳), 4. Benxi (本溪), 5. Anshan (鞍山), 6. Dandong (丹东)

Shandong route (right): 1. Beijing (北京), 2. Dezhou (德州), 3. Qufu (曲阜), 4. Rizhao (日照), 5. Qingdao (青岛), 6. Weihai (威海), 7. Penglai (蓬莱), 8. Changdao (长岛)

Shanxi route (left): 1. Beijing (北京), 2. Yungang Shiku (云岗石窟), 3. Yingxian (应县), 4. Hengshan (恒山), 5. Wutaishan (五台山), 6. Qixian (祁县), 7. Pingyao (平遥), 8. Hukou Waterfalls (壶口瀑布)

Photos by Wei Tong / Zhao Shiyu
Pictures by Liu Yang

Liaoning Imperial History Entertains Modern Visitors

Most guidebook histories of Liaoning begin in the 11th century when the Mongolians were in power in North China. When the Manchus, having defeated the Ming rulers, moved to Beijing in 1644, and established the Qing dynasty, Liaoning declined in importance.

Targets for visit: Huludao, Shenyang, Benxi Water Cave, Qianshan, Fenghuangshan

Route: Beijing - Huludao - Shenyang - Benxi - Anshan - Dandong

Journey duration: seven days

First day: Drive to Huludao from Beijing along Jingshen expressway. Huludao enjoys beautiful sea sights. It is not polluted or packed with people. Living in the city is not expensive, about 50 yuan per night.

Second day: Drive to Shenyang, capital of Liaoning province. Shenyang, a heavy industrial city of northeastern China, is the original capital of China's last feudal dynasty, the Qing dynasty. After the Qing troops conquered the Great Wall, the governor of Qing moved the capital from Shenyang to Beijing. The original imperial palace in Shenyang retained its name. North Tomb (Beiling) is the burial place of Huang Taiji.

Third day: Fuling Tomb (Dongling) is situated in the eastern suburbs of Shenyang, the imperial tomb of the first emperor and empress of Qing dynasty, Nurhachi and his wife Yehenala.

Fourth day: Drive to Benxi Water Cave. Coats can be rented for 10 yuan. However, some scenery inside has been artificially rebuilt, losing some of its natural authenticity. Even so, it's pretty cool.

Fifth day: Drive to Anshan. Mount Qianshan mountain range is famous in north China and has 999 mountains altogether. Thus it is also known as the "Thousand



Lotus Flower Mountain Range". Drive to Fenghuangshan, located in Dandong city, Liaoning province. Fenghuangshan is one of the most dangerous mountains in China. Visitors not good at climbing mountains are not suggested to go there.

Sixth day: Drive to Dalian city.

Seventh day: Drive back to Beijing.

Tips: Try to see doctors in hospitals and don't go to small private clinics if you fall sick.

Walking beside Sea, Swim by Shandong

As one of the birthplaces of Chinese civilization, Shandong is famous for its cultural relics and historic sites. However, this time, let's reduce the relic quotient and rush to the seaside for the May Day tour.

Targets for visit: Qufu, Zoucheng, Weishan lake, Rizhao, Weihai, Changdao, Penglai, alternative: Dalian

Route: Beijing - Dezhou - Jinan - Rizhao - Rushan - Weihai - Changdao - Penglai

Journey duration: seven days

First day: Drive 551 kms from Beijing to Dezhou down Jinghu expressway. Drive to Qufu from Dezhou through Daminghu and Tai'an city. If Tai Shan is also of interest, add one-two hours and prepare for sardine experience to climb the mountain. Better to visit out of peak tourism season.

Qufu, hometown of Confucius, and Zoucheng, hometown of Mencius, Weishan Lake, Yishan Mountain in Zoucheng are all located near Jinan city.

Tips: It is better to rent a motor boat and sleep overnight by Weishan Lake. Some locals will probably suggest you not sleep by the lake. Just ignore them. Sleep in a sleeping bag on deck, and avoid the cabins.

Third day: Drive west to Rizhao through Yimengshan.

Historic Rizhao boasts beautiful scenery and an agreeable climate. The annual average temperature is 12.5 C.

One-day tour: Rizhao seashore tour route: Visit the light tower scenic spot, the port, and No. 2 and No. 3 bathing beaches.

Fourth day: Drive to Qingdao and Weihai. Weihai is abundant in tourism resources.

One-day tour route: After breakfast, tour Liugongdao Island, Jiawu War Museum and Jiawu Sea Battle Memorial by ship. After lunch, travel around CCTV Weihai

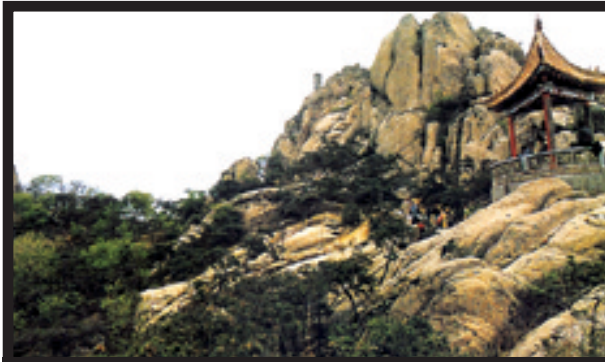
Movie & Television Town, International Bathing Beach, and Korean Clothing Town.

Fifth day: Drive to Changdao and Penglai. Penglai has long been known to Chinese as "Fairyland", the origin of powerful elixirs and the home of immortals.

Take a taxi (5 yuan) to Penglai Harbor and go to Changdao by ferry (12 yuan). Arriving at Changdao, taxi is await. It takes about 300 yuan to rent a taxi for one-two days' travel across the tourist scenery of Changdao. It is also suggested to catch a ship to Dalian from Changdao. This will take a few days.

Alternative: Back from Penglai, stop a few hours at Fanggan. It is located in Laiwu city, well-known for its 20 year efforts in turning barren and balding mountains into breathtaking landscape. To date, the village's 3,500 mu (233 hectares) of land is covered with more than three million trees and dotted with eight reservoirs, attracting some 200 species of birds.

Seventh day: Drive back to Beijing



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Wu Yuan and Feng Huang are famous to Chinese backpackers. Locally dubbed the two most beautiful villages in China, the historic residences, rural scenery and unique customs fill the pages of tourism guidebooks.

Unlike the bustling major tourism attractions of the most populated country in the world, the two villages shelter tourists from the noisy world outside. This seven-day holiday whisks you away from the boss's complaints, and it is sincerely recommended you do not bring a mobile phone to enjoy these most beautiful villages.

Nine-day tour to Western Hunan

By Jiang Zhong

First stop: Bao Feng Lake at Zhang Jia Jie

Getting to Zhang Jia Jie: Plane CA1359/60 from Beijing to Zhang Jia Jie (张家界 5:40 pm every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday). Taxi from airport to the city proper (10 yuan per person)

Accommodation: Jin Hui (金辉) Hotel (0744-8223162), restroom with hot water. 110 yuan per person.

Tour to Bao Feng Lake (宝峰湖) Park:

Getting to Bao Feng Lake: Bus to Suoxi Valley (索溪峪 45 minutes, 7 yuan per person). Then rent a three-wheel motorcycle (1 yuan per person) to the entrance to Bao Feng Lake Park.

Admittance for Bao Feng Lake Park: 62 yuan

Tips: Boat tour of Bao Feng Lake is strongly recommended (free, the boatman may ask you to show him your park ticket bought at the entrance). Songs of the Tu nationality will escort you through the boat tour. The Tu people anchor their boats along the banks of Bao Feng Lake. The Tu women always sing at the sight of tourists.

Second stop: three-day tour in Zhang Jia Jie

Forest Park is recommended for the first day:

Getting to the Forest Park: buses from the city proper to the entrance to the Forest Park. (Five yuan, one hour)

Guide: The locals here all like to serve as the guide. Guide charge: 10 yuan per day, the guides can also help you with your heavy luggage, 10 more yuan is needed.

Admittance for the Forest Park: 108 yuan per person, extra 2 yuan per person for insurance

Attractions: Tianzi mountain (天子山), Huang Shi Zhai (黄石寨 Yellow Stone Camp), cable cars are available at Huang Shi Zhai: 48 yuan per person.

Accommodation in the scenic spot: Hong Qiao (虹桥) Hotel, 280 yuan for one night. (hot water is generally supplied between 7 pm-9 pm)

Tips: Huang Shi Zhai should be a must for a trip to the Forest Park.

Yuan Jia Zhai and He Long Park are recommended for the second day:

Tips: Walk to Yuan Jia Zhai after checking in at the Hong Qiao Hotel (one hour). You can alternatively take a bus (five yuan per person); it is recommended to walk to Yuan Jia Zhai. Many attractions will be found en route. Lunch at Yuan Jia Zhai is expensive.

Attractions around Yuan Jia Zhai: Ji Gong Tou, Wu Long Zhai and Tian Bo Fu

He Long Park is not a must for your travel plan. However, there are buses heading for other attractions. Admittance for the park: 20 yuan

Getting there: bus from Yuan Jia Zhai to the park

Accommodation around He Long Park: Da Feng Yun Guesthouse: 180 yuan for one night

Hike through Shi Li Hua Lang (十里画廊 Ten-mile Corridor) for the third day:

Attractions: Xian Ren Qiao and Shi Li Hua Lang

Getting to Xian Ren Qiao: taxi from the Da Feng Yun Hotel (大风云 40 minutes, 40 yuan)

Tips: Hiking through Shi Li Hua Lang takes at least three hours; Buses waiting at the entrance to Shi Li

Hua Lang will take you back to the city proper of Zhang Jia Jie (15 yuan per person); Ru Yi Hotel, the only hotel at Xian Ren Qiao, offers lunch. Owner Mr. Peng will give valuable suggestions to Chinese speakers. *Contact the hotel:* 0744-5617448

Third stop: Wang Cun Village, Ji Shou, Feng Huang

Day 1, getting to Feng Huang

Return to the city proper of Zhang Jia Jie. Book a ticket for Meng Dong He (猛洞河) at the railway station.

Getting to Wang Cun (王村): Taxi to the railway station (10 yuan); train to Meng Dong He (7:40am daily, 5 yuan per person); then boat to Wang Cun (four yuan per person, one hour)

Tips: Wang Cun is famous for beancurd dishes; Jin Hai (金海) Hotel here provides Mi Dou Fu "rice beancurd" (2 yuan per bowl) and Tian Xia Di Yi Luo "the world's no.1 snails" (20 yuan per big bowl); enjoying the amazing local dishes on the third floor of the hotel with a fine view of the whole village.

Getting to Feng Huang: After a visit to Wang Cun, take a three-wheel motorcycle to Wang Cun Bus Station (2 yuan); then bus to railway station at Meng Dong He (8 yuan per person,). Then train to Ji Shou (吉首 6.5 yuan per person, two and a half hours, 2 pm daily); one more bus to the Southern Railway Station of Ji Shou 3 yuan), then last bus to Feng Huang (one hour, six yuan)

Accommodation at Feng Huang: Nan Hua Hotel (0743-3227264), 80yuan, public restroom and bathroom

Tips: Da Shi (大使) Restaurant is recommended for the supper. The most renowned dish here is fried lobster (40 yuan)

Day 2 at Feng Huang

Attractions: old residence of ethnic minority writer Shen Congwen (4 yuan), "bei men (北门)" dock, Tiao Yan (跳岩), Diao Jiao Lou (吊脚楼) and Wan Ming (万名) Pagoda

Tips: Feng Huang was said to be one of the two most beautiful villages in China; a boat tour of the Tuo River (沱江) surrounding the village offers a fine view of the attractions at Feng Huang.

Gu Cheng Jiang Bian Hotel (古城江边客栈) here is recommended for the night.

Day 3 at Feng Huang

Attractions: Old City of Huang Si Qiao, Southern Great Wall and Shan Jiang Village

Getting to Huang Si Qiao: taxi from Feng Huang to Huang Si Qiao (120 yuan one hour)

Admittance: 5 yuan per person, including guide charge

Tips: The ancient Huang Si Qiao (Yellow Thread Bridge) City, 30 kilometers west of Fenghuang, once served as the most important pass of the Southern Great Wall. Watchtowers at four entrances are all preserved as attractions for tourists.

Shanjiang Village, 23 kilometers from Fenghuang, presents typical Miao customs. Every third and eighth day of the month according to the Chinese lunar calendar, a fair is held. Locals in traditional costume gather in the center of the village.



Huang Si Qiao ancient town



Tian Bao Pagoda at Zhe Yuan



Shang Xiao Qi Village

Five-day historic tour to Jiangxi

By Jiang Zhong

Attractions: Wu Yuan, San Qing Mountain; Wu Yuan is noted as one of the most beautiful villages in China, which features old residences, bridges, rivers and trees. Two routes, eastern and northern, are included in tour to Wu Yuan.

Day 1, eastern route

Getting to Wu Yuan: Train 1453 from Beijing West Railway Station to Jiu Jiang (九江 12:15pm daily, 19 hours, 270 yuan); then bus to Jing De Zhen (景德镇 40 yuan, 3 hours); taxi to Li Cun (李村) Bus Station of Jing De Zhen; last bus to Dong Men (东门) Bus Station, Zi Yang Zhen (紫阳镇), Wu Yuan (three hours, 12 yuan).

Accommodation: Zi Yang Zhen features no ideal hotel; it is suggested to spend the night in Qiu Kou Li Keng (秋口李坑) Village at the start of the eastern route. Take a taxi to the village (10 yuan); Shuang Long (双龙) Hotel here offers an ideal place for sightseeing at night (10 yuan each room for one night). He Bao Hong Li Yu (a carp dish) is a favorite local dish, a must for supper.

Tips: The residence of Li Zhicheng, a court official of the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279), is a must for a trip around the village. Buildings of southern Chinese character offer opportunities for your photo album.

Traffic: the boss of Shuang Long Ke Zhan is great help renting a car; 200 yuan for one day.

Eastern route tour: Jiang Ling-

Shang (Xia) Xiao Qi-Wang Kou-Qiu Kou Li Keng

To avoid the holiday crowd, you'd better start from the farthest attraction of the route: Jiang Ling (江岭).

Jiang Ling features terraced field and rural scenery.

En route to Shang (Xia) Xiao Qi (上下晓起), the Shang Tan Village offers an ideal place for a short break.

Shang Xiao Qi Village and Xia Xiao Qi Village are built on water. Some restaurants constructed with bamboo here offer local dishes. Have lunch here.

Yu Shi Ci Tang (Family Temple of Yus) of Wang Kou Village features old buildings adorned with intricate carvings. Religious rites are held daily. Jiang Wan, the homeland of President Jiang Zemin, is obviously a must.

Day 2, northern route:

Northern route tour: Tuo Chuan Li Keng, Hong Guan, Zhe Yuan, Qing Hua, Si Xi and Yan Cun

A one-hour drive on rugged roads to Tuo Chuan Li Keng (沱川理坑), the farthest attraction of the northern route, arouses hunger for a soft bed.

Yun Xi (云溪) Villa is a must for touring the village. The owner Mr. Yu, 43, offers the opportunity to live in the old residence. It is exciting to eat at an old table and sleep in a comfortable bed.

Locally dubbed "Shangri-la," Huang Cun (簪村) nearby features winding brooks and a bridge resembling the Madison Bridge. Hiking around the village takes two hours.

Hong Guan (虹关) and Zhe Yuan (浙源) ahead features old camphor trees, and a brick pagoda. It doesn't matter much to miss these two attractions.

In Qing Hua (清华), the 800-year-old Cai Hong (Rainbow) Bridge arouses interest. No nail was used in construction of the bridge. Stone tables and stools are suitable for a tea break.

The last Si Xi (思溪) and Yan Cun (延村) house well preserved old residences. The stone and wooden carvings here should be added to the album.

Tips: Return to Zi Yang Zhen after a tour to Si Xi and Yan Cun. It is suggested to get to San Qing Mountain before sunset, so that you can spend the night at the mountain and enjoy sunrise the next morning.

Day 3-5, Tour to San Qing Mountain Scenic Spot

Getting to the mountain: taxi from Zi Yang Zhen to the northern peak of the mountain (60 kilometers, one hour, 150 yuan). The taxi stops at Fen Shui at the foot of the northern peak. The scenic spot supplies buses heading for the Bi Yu Ta (Jade Pagoda) in the mountainside (70 yuan). After the pagoda, climb the mountain before getting to the San Qing Palace (60 yuan for admittance) atop the northern peak.

Tips: Guides are available at the pagoda (50 yuan); four hours are needed for mountain climbing.

Accommodation atop the peak: hotels around the San Qing Palace (60 yuan per person)

Long Hu (Dragon and Tiger) Hall of the palace offers best place for admiring the sunrise. Crowds will gather there before 5:30am.

Attractions around San Qing Palace include Feng Lei (Wind and Thunder) Pagoda and the 1,800-meter Yu Jing Peak. The Southern Peak stands on the other side of Yu Jing Peak.

Yu Tai, 1,500 meters above sea level, offers an ideal place for admiring the sunset. You can also spend one more night there.

Tips: Cable cars are available at the Southern Peak. (cable car trip between Yu Tai and the foot of the peak takes 40 minutes, 40 yuan per person)



Dawn at Wu Yuan



Rural scenery of Wu Yuan



Tiao Yan at Feng Huang



Boat tour in Tuo River



Diao Jiao Lou (bracket tower) over Tuo River



Wu Yuan



Qiu Kou Li Keng Village



Zhang Jia Jie Forest Park





By Jiao Pei

For 7-10 day May Day holidays, Tibet has much to offer. For foreigners planning a trip to Tibet, it is advised you seek out further advice and information about the special circumstances of travel through the region, where a tour guide is compulsory. Some areas may be forbidden.

First route

Day 1: Plane SZ4112 (Thursdays, Sundays) from Beijing at 8:15 to Lhasa, transfer in Chengdu,

then arrive at the Gonggar Airport (贡嘎机场) at 1:30pm, 90 kms from Lhasa, take a taxi for about 100 yuan. Check in a hotel, e.g. Xueyu Hotel (25 yuan-130 yuan per person one night). Take a walk around the Barkhor Bazaar. The Barkhor is essentially a pilgrim circuit which is followed clockwise round the periphery of the Jokhang. It is also a hive of market activity, an astounding jamboree and a Tibetan-style stock exchange.

Then visit Jokhang (Dazhao) Temple (大昭寺) till 6:30pm. The golden-roofed Jokhang is 1,300 years old and one of Tibet's holiest shrines. It was built to commemorate the marriage of the Tang princess Wen Cheng to King Songtsen Gampo, and houses a pure gold statue of the Buddha Sakyamuni brought to Tibet by the princess. Before making donations at official collection points in religious institutions, it is helpful to remember the money will be handled by Chinese authorities.

Admission: 25 yuan. **Open:** 9am-12:30pm, 3-6:30pm.

The Drepung, Sera and Ganden temples (哲蚌寺, 色拉寺, 甘丹寺) in Lhasa are the three biggest, and worth a visit. If time is limited, at least go to one.

Day 2: Visit Potala Palace (布达拉宫) at 9am. It was once the center of the Tibetan government and winter residence of the Dalai Lama. Construction of the present structure began during the reign of the fifth Dalai Lama in 1645 and took more than 50 years to complete. The first recorded use of the site dates from the seventh century. Thirteen stories high with a total height of 117 meters, it is an architectural wonder of wood and stone. Its 1,000 rooms and halls, with gilded pinnacles gleaming in the sunshine, feature nearly 200,000 Buddhist statues and other valuable relics.

Admission: 70 yuan (49 yuan for students). **Open:** 9am-1pm, 3-6pm (closed on Sundays).

In the afternoon visit Drepung (Zhebung) Monastery by taking the No. 4 bus (3 yuan) from the Post Hotel to the foot of mountain, then take taxi (15-20 yuan). Founded in 1416, it covers a floor space of more than 200,000 square meters.

Admission: 30 yuan. **Open:** 9:30am-5pm. **Visiting time:** two and a half hours.

Day 3: In the morning, pay a visit to the Norbulinka Treasure Garden (罗布林卡). Once the summer palace of the Dalai Lamas, this famous park is composed of resplendent palaces, beautiful gardens, and lush forests home to rare animals.

Admission: 2 yuan for park, 35 yuan for the summer palace.

Tips: At the west suburb bus stop, there are buses to so almost every region of Tibet. To Tsedang, Shigatse, Nyingchi, Nagqu, Chamdo and Golmud (泽当, 日喀则, 林芝, 那曲, 昌都, 格尔木).

For travel in Tibet, one useful way is to rent a minibus or Jeep from the Lhasa Tourism Vehicle Company (0891-6328591). The minibus roughly charges four yuan per 1 kilometer.

In the afternoon, leave for Nanggarz by car, passing Quxu (曲水) and Yamdrok Yumtso Lake (羊卓雍措湖), one of the three holiest lakes in Tibet. The lake lies at Nanggarz, located about 100 kilometers (62 miles) to the southwest of Lhasa. The turquoise blue lake is also called "Coral Lake of the Highlands". In legend, a goddess descended to earth here. Careful visitors may find the water looks different in color, considered a magical and spiritual place by some Tibetans. They like to visit the lake before making important decisions.

Accommodation: Post Office Hostel (邮政局招待所), or Grain Bureau Hostel (粮食局招待所), Minfu Hostel (民福招待所), 15 to 30 yuan per person.

Day 4: Go along 318 road for about 25kms, arrive in Gyantse (江孜) (about 100 kms). Gyantse, scene of the battle between Tibetans and a renegade band of British invaders in 1904, made famous in China by the movie *Red Valley*. Visit Palcho Monastery (白居寺) and the Kumbum Pagoda. Palcho Monastery, located at the center of Gyantse, built in the 15th century by a local chieftain.

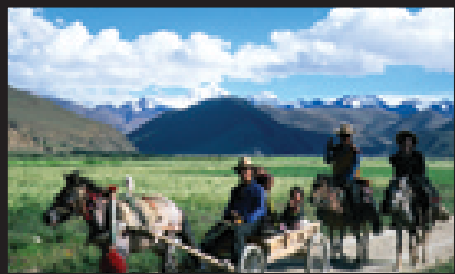
Location: 350kms from Lhasa 8.5 hours' drive; 2 kms from Gyantse 10 minute's drive. **Admission:** 25 yuan (taking photos and going to the top of the temple, pay another 18 yuan).

Then take bus to Shigatse (日喀则) from the big intersection in Gyantse. Shigatse, also Xigatse, which means "fertile land" stands between the confluence of the Yarlong Tsangpo and Nyangchu River, and used to be the capital of Tsang and now is the capital of Shigatse prefecture. The highlight of Shigatse is surprisingly high snowcapped peaks. Most of the highest peaks in Tibet, including Mount Himalaya, lie around Shigatse.

Accommodation: Gangjiangyuan Hostel (刚坚果园招待所) or Danzeng Hostel (旦增旅社), 25-35 yuan per person. Shigatse Hotel, tel:



Lhasa



Halfway from Tingri to Mount Himalaya



Ali resident



Stupas of Guge Kingdom



Namtso Lake



Outside the Tashilhunpo Temple



Drepung Lamasery



Namtso Lake

Photos by Yi Zhi

0892-8825525. Restaurants can be found on Kesang Ke Lu, Zhufeng Lu and Tsendu Lu.

Day 5: Visit Tashilhunpo Temple (扎什伦布寺), 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) west of Shigatse city. The biggest Huang religious temple, founded in 1477 by Gendun Drubpa, the first Dalai Lama and a most outstanding disciple of Tsong Khapa.

Also some temples around Shigatse, as Xialu Temple and Yongzhonglin Temple.

Transportation: west of the city, rent tricycle or by foot. **Admission:** 30 yuan. **Open:** 8am-4pm. **Visiting time:** 3 hours.

Day 6: Take a long-distance bus (38 yuan) back to Lhasa. Find the same hotel for one night. On the seventh day, back to Beijing by air. And if the holiday is relatively long, Tingri (定日), Changmu (樟木) and Kathmandu (加德满都) (if you have a Nepal visa).



Lhasa bar

Second route:

After one or two days tour in Lhasa, take bus to Dagaz, go west from Lhatse's frontier station (拉孜边防站), Xinzang Road, to Ali (阿里). To go to visit the Ruins of Guge Kingdom (古格王国), it will pass Sangsang (桑桑), Sagar (萨嘎), Burang (帕羊) and Dajin (大金). Eighteen kms west of Zanda (扎达) are the ruins of Guge Kingdom. Guge Kingdom was founded around the 10th century by a descendant of King Lang Darma, who fled from Lhasa after the collapse of the Tubo Kingdom. The kingdom, playing an important role in the second transmission in Tibet, survived about 700 years and disappeared mysteriously in the 17th century. Guge Kingdom is now famous for its murals, sculptures and stone inscriptions, attached to those surviving structures. Among them, murals in the White Palace, Red Palace, Yaman-taka Chapel, Tara Chapel and Mandala Chapel are well preserved. The themes of those murals, hundreds of years old but still splendid, include mainly stories of Buddha, Sakyamuni, Songtsen Gampo, kings of Guge and their ministers.

Tips: It's quite difficult to find a bus to Ali. Renting a private car is quite expensive, often several hundred yuan a day. For people who want to walk around Tibet, it takes about one month to get there.

Third route

Take a bus from the west suburb of Lhasa to Damxung (当雄). It is 162 kms long and the fee is 44 yuan. Then take a private bus to Namtso Lake (纳木措), between Damxung and Nagqu (那曲), 195 kms north of Lhasa. It's better to rent a private car by 1,000 to 1,500 yuan from Lhasa to Damxung.

The Namucuo Lake (纳木措), a "fairy lake", is the highest lake in the world (4700 meters) is surrounded by mountains with peaks of more than 7,000 meters. Coupled with a turquoise-blue lake, the scenery is breathtaking. It cover an area of more than 2000 square kms, with towering snow peaks (7,162 meters) reflected in the clear blue water. There are three islands in the lake, rich with fish and ducks. See sunrise the next morning, leave for Lhasa 8am, arriving in Lhasa at about 4pm.

Admission: 35 yuan (discount for a group of students). **Accommodation:** Tashi Dor Monastery (4,700m), on the edge of the lake, or you can camp nearby.

Fourth route

Day 1 and 2, travel in Lhasa as mentioned.

Day 3: To Nyingchi (林芝), east Tibet, is called "Jiangnan" in Tibet. Nyingchi is situated in the lower reaches of the Yarlung Tsangbo River (雅鲁藏布江) with a mild and moist climate at an altitude of 3,000 meters. The region has a concentration of Monba and Lhoba ethnic communities with unique customs. The Yarlung Tsangbo River cuts through the Himalayas, forming the Grand Yarlung Tsangbo Canyon, the deepest in the world, at the foot of Mount Namjagbarwa. At the deepest of the great canyons, Menba and Luoba people live their primitive life on the purified land.

Take a bus from the western suburban bus stop in Lhasa to Baiyi Town (八一镇) (twice a day) at 8am for 80 yuan (this road is quite good, a round regular bus starts 7-9am). Or rent a Cherokee for 140 yuan, go 220 kms taking 10 hours to Gongbo'gyamda (工布江达) then to Baiyi, capital of Nyingchi.

Accommodation: Hongyan Hotel (鸿雁招待所), Linzhi Hotel (林芝旅馆), Renxing Hostel (人行招待所) (at downtown, toilet, shower). 10-25 yuan.

Day 4: Take a car to Basum-Tso Lake (巴松措湖), which has the Tibetan name "Tsokou", which means "green water" in Tibetan. Covering 26 sq.km (10 sq. miles), the green lake, reflecting snowcapped peaks in the water, has Alpine scenery. In 1997, it was listed by the World Tourism Organization as a world tourist site.

Then back to Baiyi Town, visit Big Cypress Scenery Area, 9kms from Baiyi Town.

Day 5: Drive up into the mountains of Serkyimla Primitive Forests, where trees cover every mountain slope and along the road are bushes and flowers.

Day 6: Take a bus back to Lhasa.

Tips: To enter Tibet, a Chinese visa is necessary. In Nepal, bring a copy of a passport and a photo and pay 270 yuan to obtain a travel visa for 60 days. To get a visa in the Nepalese Embassy in Beijing, pay 255 yuan and bring a passport, a 2-inch-photo and fill out a form in English. The embassy address: Xiliujie, Sanlitun-lu, Chaoyang District. Tel: 6532-1795, 6532-3251.

Foreigners often like to fly from Nepal, easier and cheaper for visas. If not, foreigners have to acquire permission from Chengdu.

Applying for a frontier certificate in Tibet is quite troublesome. Paying 50-100 yuan to travel agencies can save time.

The average temperature in Tibet in May is about 12 C. The average rainfall is 25 mm. In fact, the best time to travel in Tibet is July, August and September. It's the rainy season, but the scenery is the most beautiful during those three months.

Avoid: Staying in an expensive Chinese hotel; Chinese-only speaking guides; buying antiques; buying products made from wild animals, especially endangered species

Try to: Travel individually or in a small group; leave donations on altars or give them directly to monks or nuns; give donations to pilgrims from provincial Tibet; use knowledgeable Tibetan guides or Tibetan-staffed tour operators; exercise care for the environment when trekking; be discreet when talking or giving things to Tibetans; be informed before you leave

Exploring Tibet



Traditional leather rafts in a village near Shigatse



Picture by Yi Zhi, from his Chinese guidebook *Tibetan Leather Book* (藏地牛皮书)